윤미경
Mi-Kyung Yun
14
BRIDE of the WATER GOD

SO YO WOL YA SA HA SA
—BY HWANG-JIN-I
WHO DO YOU THINK OF WHEN THE MOON SHINES?
WHAT DO YOU DREAM OF WHEN YOU SLEEP?
WHEN YOU HOLD A BRUSH TO WRITE,
IS YOUR POETRY ABOUT ME SOMETIMES?
WERE YOU HAPPY TO SEE ME? DO YOU BELIEVE IN LOVE?
I'M CURIOUS ABOUT EVERYTHING WHEN I THINK OF YOU.
IF I ASK YOU TO LOOK AT ME WHEN YOU'RE BUSY,
I WONDER IF THAT WILL ANNOY YOU OR MAKE YOU SMILE.
DO YOU STILL LOVE ME WHEN I'M TALKATIVE,
LIKE A CHATTY BIRD?

14 윤미경
SHIN HYUN GAUK
–BY I-HA
THE TAIL OF A DRAGON DRAWN UPON THE OLD WALL,
SHINING IN GOLD.
THE RAIN GOD RIDES UPON THE DRAGON,
SLIDING INTO THE POND.
BRIDE of the WATER GOD
story and art by
Mi-Kyung Yun
translation
Julia Kwon Gombos
English adaptation
Philip R. Simon
lettering
Studio Cutie & Betty Dong

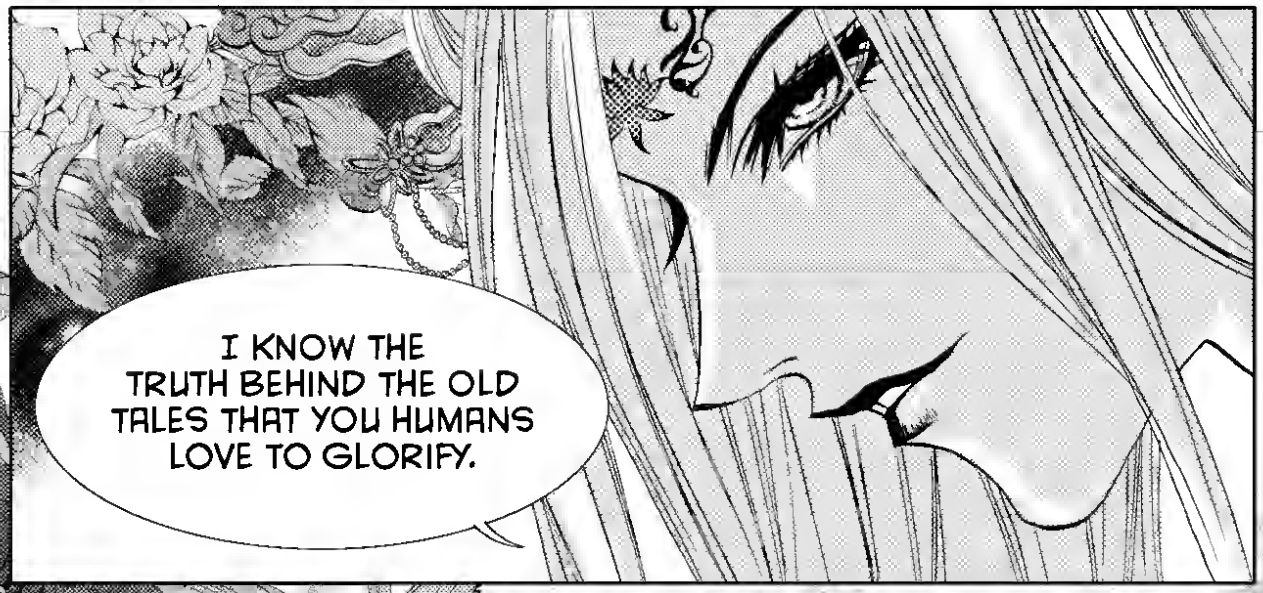
MONG CHEON
(DREAMING IN THE SKY)
—BY I-HA
AN OLD RABBIT SITS WITH A COLD TOAD.
SOBBING IN THE SKY,
A CLOUD CASTLE OPENS ITSELF INTO
TWO HALVES.
MOONLIGHT POURS DOWN THROUGH
THE MIDDLE.
THE MOON LOOKS LIKE A WHEEL FROM A
JADE WAGON, DAMPENED WITH DEW.
ANGELS WEARING JADE TRINKETS ARE OUT
ON THE STREETS,
FILLING THEM WITH THE SCENT OF THE
LAUREL TREE.

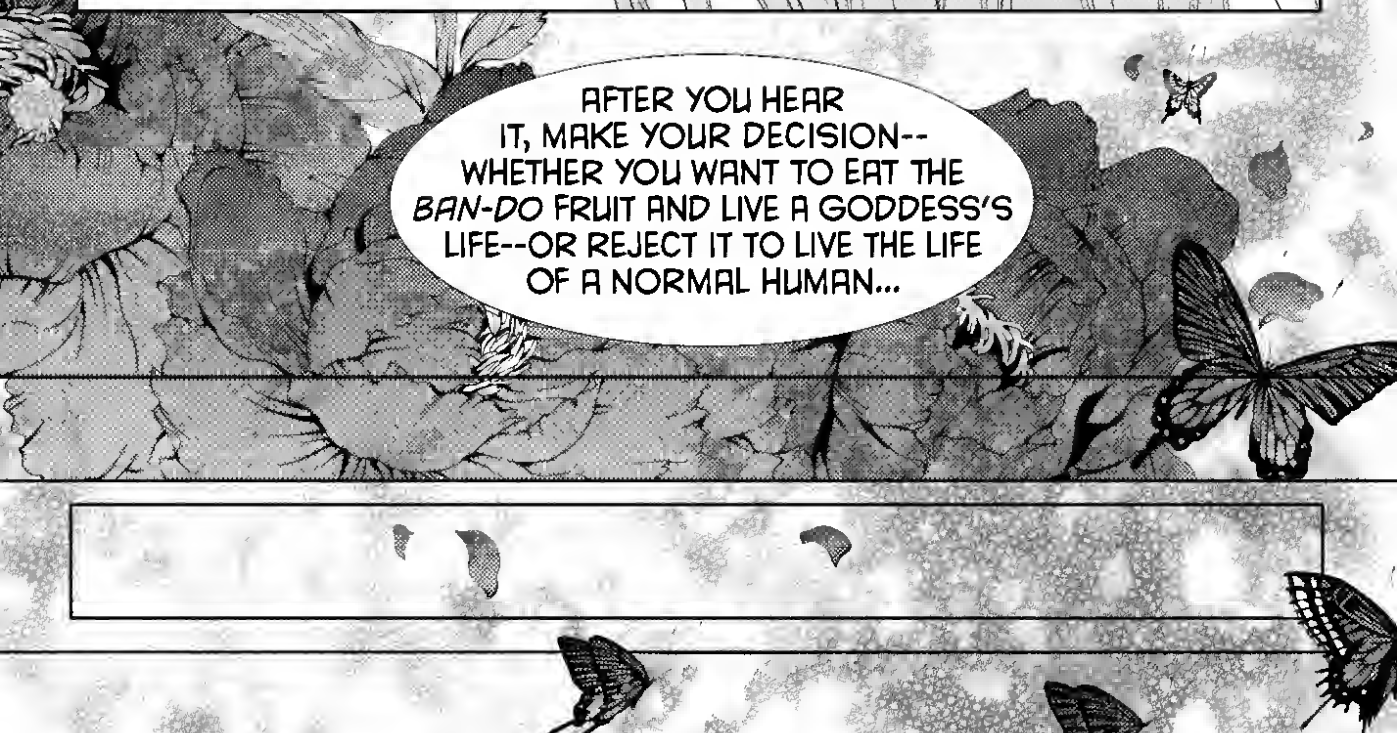
WOO-RANG IS SURPRISED WHEN HE SEES HER.
SHE REVEALS HER TRUE SELF.
"I AM A CELESTIAL NYMPH," SHE SAYS...

...AND THEY LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
"MURA'S... DEAD."
KRA
KOOOM
KOOOM
WELL, I KNEW THAT WOULD HAPPEN.

I HOPE SHE GOT HER WISH AND WAS KILLED BY HABAEK.
MURA IS... DEAD? WHAT--? THERE'S NO WAY! HE WOULDN'T KILL HER!
WHEN MURA DIED, I WANTED TO KILL YOU RIGHT AWAY.
BUT...I JUST CHANGED MY MIND. I'LL LET YOU LIVE.

LET ME TELL YOU A VERY OLD STORY INSTEAD...


I KNOW THE TRUTH BEHIND THE OLD TALES THAT YOU HUMANS LOVE TO GLORIFY.


AFTER YOU HEAR IT, MAKE YOUR DECISION-- WHETHER YOU WANT TO EAT THE *BAN-DO* FRUIT AND LIVE A GODDESS'S LIFE--OR REJECT IT TO LIVE THE LIFE OF A NORMAL HUMAN...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO EAT THE *BAN-DO* FRUIT...?
WHAT?

WHAT MADE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WHEN I WAS AWAY?

YOU DIDN'T FORGET WHY WE CAME HERE, DID YOU?

YOU *KNOW* HOW IMPORTANT THAT SPECIAL FRUIT IS!
MURA-- AND BIRYEOM-- THEY DIED BECAUSE OF THAT THING!

IS IT TRUE? DID MURA DIE, MOTHER?
YES, SHE'S DEAD. SO CHEONG-YO MOUNTAIN HAS STARTED TO COLLAPSE.
MURA CAUSED HER OWN DEATH, BUT STILL...SHE WAS LIKE A DAUGHTER TO ME.
SO I'M NOT GOING TO FORGIVE HABAEK. HE'S THE REASON SHE DIED.
KRAKOOOM

THEN WHY DID YOU LET THAT GIRL GO? WOULDN'T KILLING *HER* HAVE BEEN THE BEST REVENGE OF ALL?
WHY DID YOU GIVE HER THE CHANCE TO EAT THE *BAN-DO*?
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
I DON'T CARE WHETHER THAT GIRL EATS THE *BAN-DO* FRUIT OR NOT.
REAL PAIN DOESN'T COME FROM WATCHING YOUR LOVER DIE--

--REAL PAIN COMES FROM *BEING BETRAYED* BY THE ONE YOU LOVE.
TO HATE AND MISUNDERSTAND THE ONE YOU LOVE...
NOTHING IS MORE PAINFUL THAN BEING DESPISED AND REVILED BY THE ONE YOU LOVE.
HUMANS ARE FILLED WITH DOUBT.

AFTER HEARING THE WORDS "I LOVE YOU," THEY CONSTANTLY DOUBT IT AND SEEK PROOF.
WHAT I'VE GIVEN HER, I HOPE, IS JUST A LITTLE BIT OF DOUBT.
IT WILL END UP GROWING INSIDE HER MIND, CAUSING THEM TO MISUNDERSTAND AND MISTRUST EACH OTHER.
I DON'T WANT HABAEK'S LIFE OR THAT HUMAN GIRL'S LIFE.
ALL I WANT IS TO SEE HIM *SUFFER* BECAUSE OF LOVE, LIKE *MURA* SUFFERED.

WITH AS MUCH TORMENT AS MURA HAD TO LIVE THROUGH...
...HE'LL KNOW A *DESPAIR* THAT'S MORE PAINFUL AND PROLONGED THAN AN *EASY DEATH.*
KRAK KA KOOOM
THERE'S NO TIME. WE CAN DECIDE IF YOU'LL EAT IT LATER! WE HAVE TO *GET IT* FIRST!

THE BLOOD ON YOUR CLOTHES--
IT'S NOT MINE.
THIS IS... MURA'S BLOOD.
IS THAT...UH... DID YOU HURT HER WHILE YOU WERE GETTING THE *BAN-DO*?
...YES.

AT LEAST, I KNOW IT WAS *MY FAULT*, REGARDLESS OF HOW SHE DIED.
I REGRET WHAT HAPPENED, BUT...
...IF IT WERE TO HAPPEN AGAIN, I WOULD MAKE THE SAME DECISION.

IT WAS HARD FOR ME TO GO THROUGH THAT. BUT WHY ARE YOU REFUSING TO EAT THE *BAN-DO*?
I'M SCARED, MUI...OF GIVING UP MY HUMANITY.
ALL OF THIS HAS SCARED ME. I MEAN, I HAD TO THROW AWAY MY LIFE, MY FAMILY, AND MY FRIENDS BEFORE FINDING YOU IN SUGUK.
I WORRY ABOUT HOW SAD I'LL FEEL WHEN I'M ALIVE, ALL ALONE, AFTER EVERY PERSON I'VE KNOWN IS LONG DEAD...

WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ALONE?
I'LL BE BESIDE YOU. ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
I LOVE YOU. BUT, MUI...YOU'RE A GOD. SO YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW WEAK MORTALS ARE...

MY HUSBAND, WOO-RANG-- HE WENT CRAZY!
HE COULD BELONG NEITHER TO THE MORTAL WORLD NOR TO THE REALMS OF THE GODS. HIS LONELINESS SLOWLY DROVE HIM INSANE.
HIS BODY BECAME IMMORTAL, BUT HE STILL HAD A HUMAN'S WEAK MIND.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S ALREADY DECIDED WHEN YOUR PARENTS WILL DIE. DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHEN THAT'LL BE, EXACTLY? AS A GODDESS, YOU COULD FIND OUT, SURE--BUT THERE'D BE NOTHING YOU COULD DO ABOUT IT.
NO! I DON'T WANT TO KNOW!

HOW ABOUT YOUR LITTLE SISTER'S FATE? THAT'S WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A GODDESS. YOU GET TO KNOW EVERYTHING, BUT YOU CAN'T CHANGE A BIT OF IT.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA, HUMAN, WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE TRAPPED INSIDE AN IMMORTAL BODY. WHEN YOU CAME TO THIS MOUNTAIN, HAD YOU ALREADY MADE UP YOUR MIND?

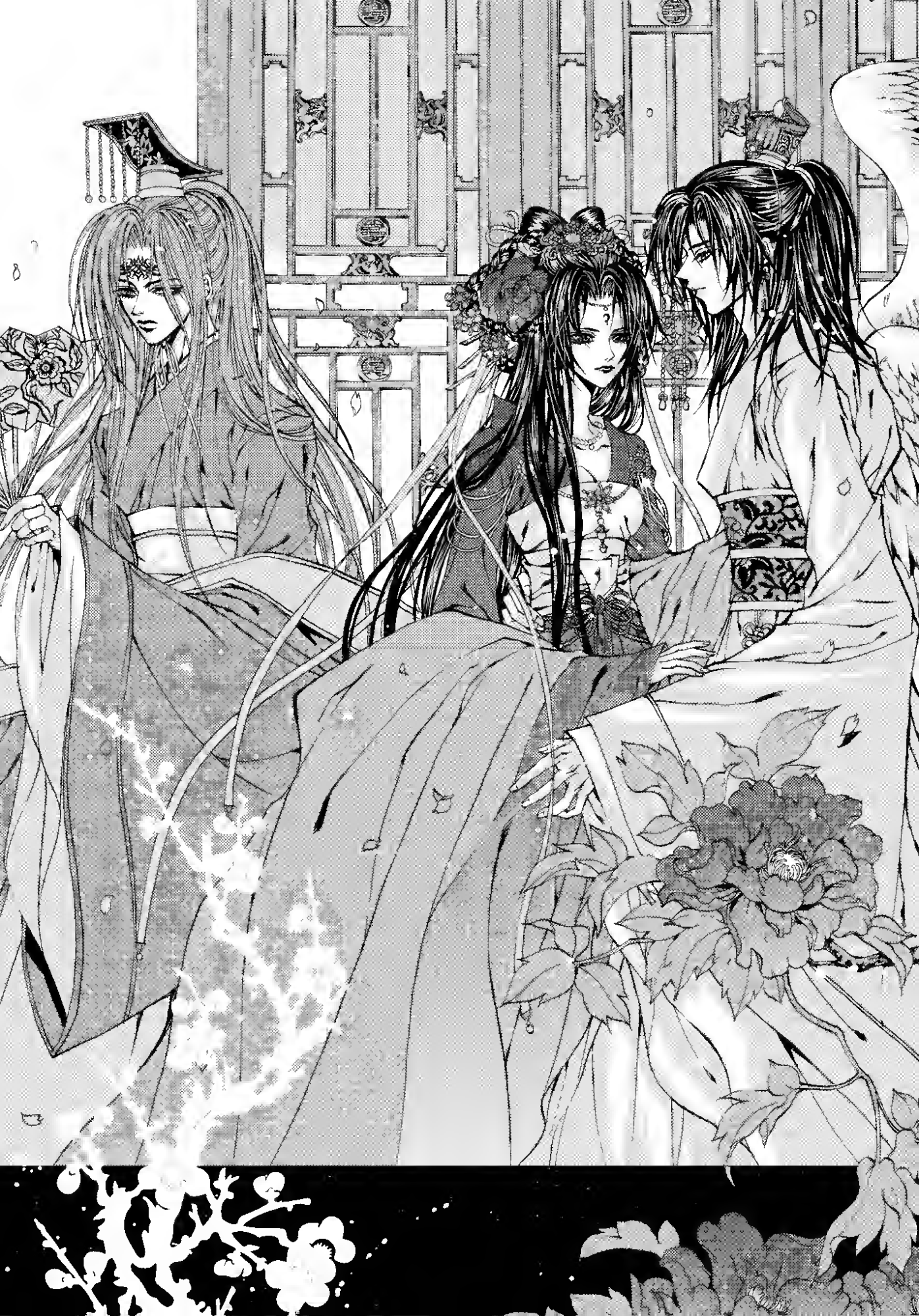
THAT'S WHAT GODS ARE LIKE. WE BECOME NUMB TO EVERYTHING, BECAUSE WE LIVE SO LONG.
WE GROW UNINTERESTED QUICKLY, TOO, AND LOOK FOR NEW THINGS TO DISTRACT US FROM OUR BOREDOM.
DO YOU THINK HABAEK WILL BE ANY DIFFERENT? HE SAYS HE LOVES YOU, BUT DON'T THINK THAT WILL LAST FOREVER.

YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S IMPORTANT TO ME.
YOU SAY THAT, BUT I WORRY. COULD YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND SO EASILY?
WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE YOU TRUST ME?
HUG
안다

"REMEMBER THAT ETERNAL LIFE ISN'T ALL THAT GREAT.
"I HAD TO KILL THE ONE I LOVED.
"WHEN THEY FIRST FALL IN LOVE, EVERYONE ACTS LIKE THEY WANT TO BE INSEPARABLE FOREVER.
"HABAEK LOVED NAKBIN FOR A LONG WHILE, BUT HE ULTIMATELY CHOSE YOU.
"BUT REMEMBER-- IF SOMETHING HAPPENS AND THINGS SOUR, YOU'LL SUFFER PAIN IN YOUR HEART FOR ALL ETERNITY.
"HOW DO YOU KNOW HIS HEART WON'T TURN AGAIN? THAT YOU WON'T WIND UP LIKE NAKBIN?

"IF YOU OBTAIN ETERNAL LIFE... AND IF HABAEK LEAVES YOU...
"...YOU'LL GO ON AND ON, FOREVER HATING HIM AND FOREVER IN PAIN.
"SO WHY DON'T YOU TEST HIM?
"TEST HIM TO SEE IF HE TRULY LOVES YOU OR NOT."
IF YOU'RE REALLY IN LOVE WITH ME...

...WILL YOU GIVE UP YOUR PLACE AS A GOD FOR ME?



I WILL LET DONG-WANG-GONG-*NIM* KNOW THAT YOU'RE HERE.
NO. DON'T DO THAT.
I WOULD LIKE TO ENJOY THE SOUND OF HIS FLUTE A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.

"PLEASE, KILL YOUR HUSBAND.
"IF YOU DO, I'LL CERTAINLY TRUST YOU."
WANG-MO?
I SHOULD HAVE TRIED BEGGING...

MY LOVE...
I WANTED TO SHELTER AND PROTECT YOU SO MUCH...
SO MUCH I TRIED TO NOT EVEN THINK OF YOU, EVEN IN MY DREAMS AT NIGHT...
I SHOULD HAVE BEGGED FOR YOUR LIFE...

YANG-HOI...?
WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT'S GOING ON?
I AM SORRY, MOK-GONG.

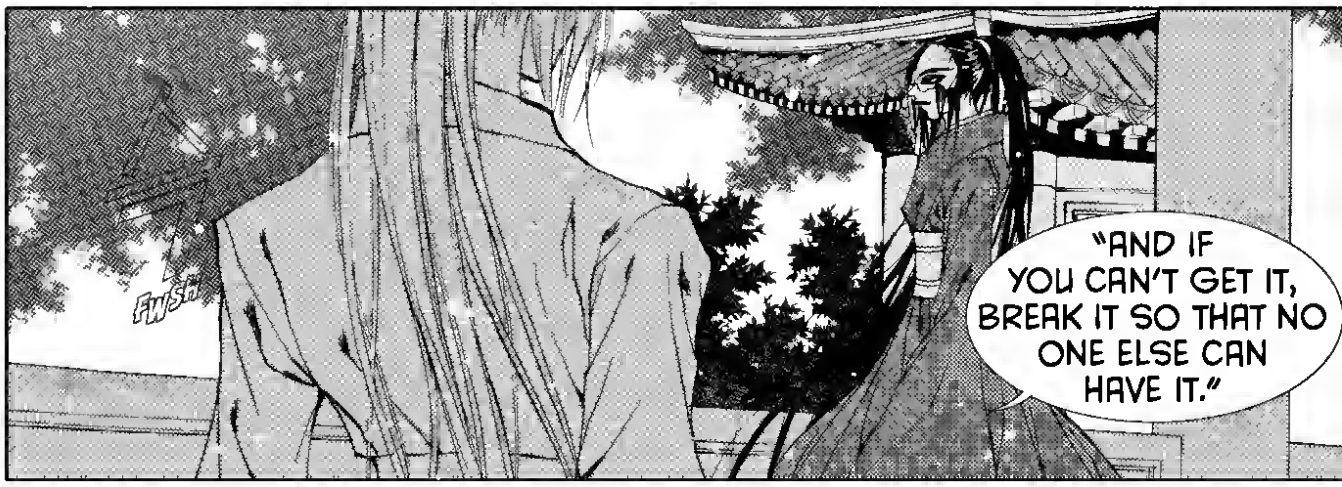
WHETHER WE'RE ALIVE... OR DEAD...
...I DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER BE ABLE TO BE TOGETHER...

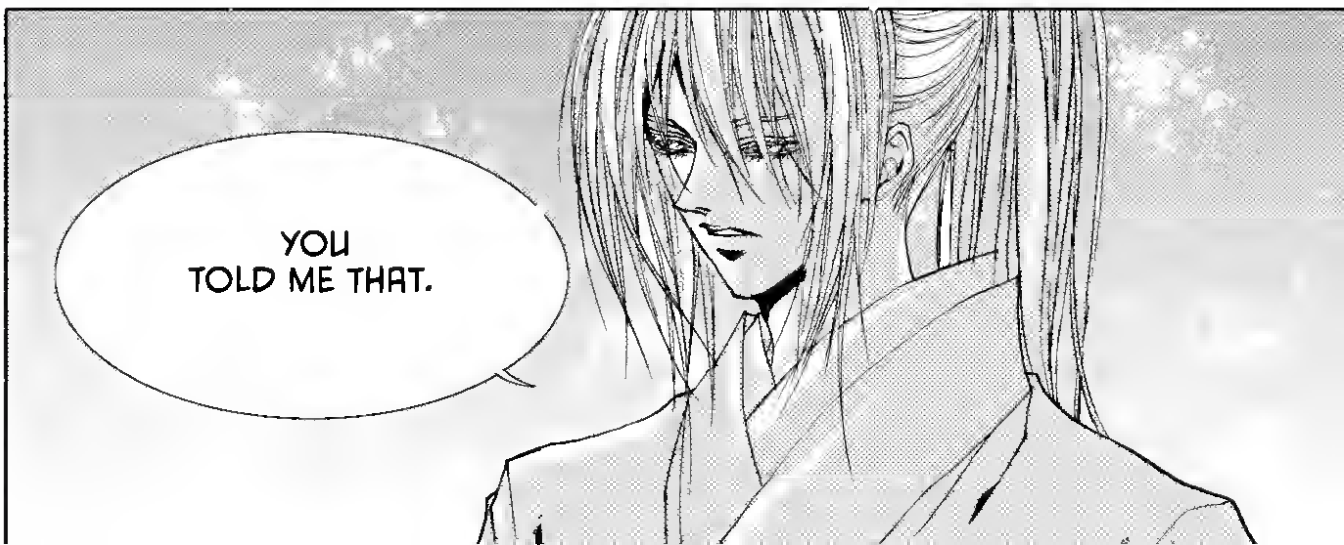
MY BELOVED...
I'M RELIEVED THAT HABAEK'S GROWN UP TO BE STRONG. STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT YOU.

I MET HIM AT THE MOON PALACE.
HE'S GROWN SO MUCH. I BARELY RECOGNIZED HIM.
I'M GLAD THAT YOU HAD A CHANCE TO SEE HIM.
THAT BOY... I WANTED TO SHOW HIM TO YOU. HE LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE YOU.

THE SWEETER THIS IS, THE CRUELER IT FEELS TO ME.
I CANNOT SMILE IN FRONT OF THIS WINE.

YET THAT CANDLE SHARES MY FEELINGS.
IT'S SAD BECAUSE WE PARTED.
AND IT CRIES FOR US,
UNTIL THE SUN RISES.
--BY JEUNG-BYUL


FWSH
"AND IF YOU CAN'T GET IT, BREAK IT SO THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN HAVE IT."

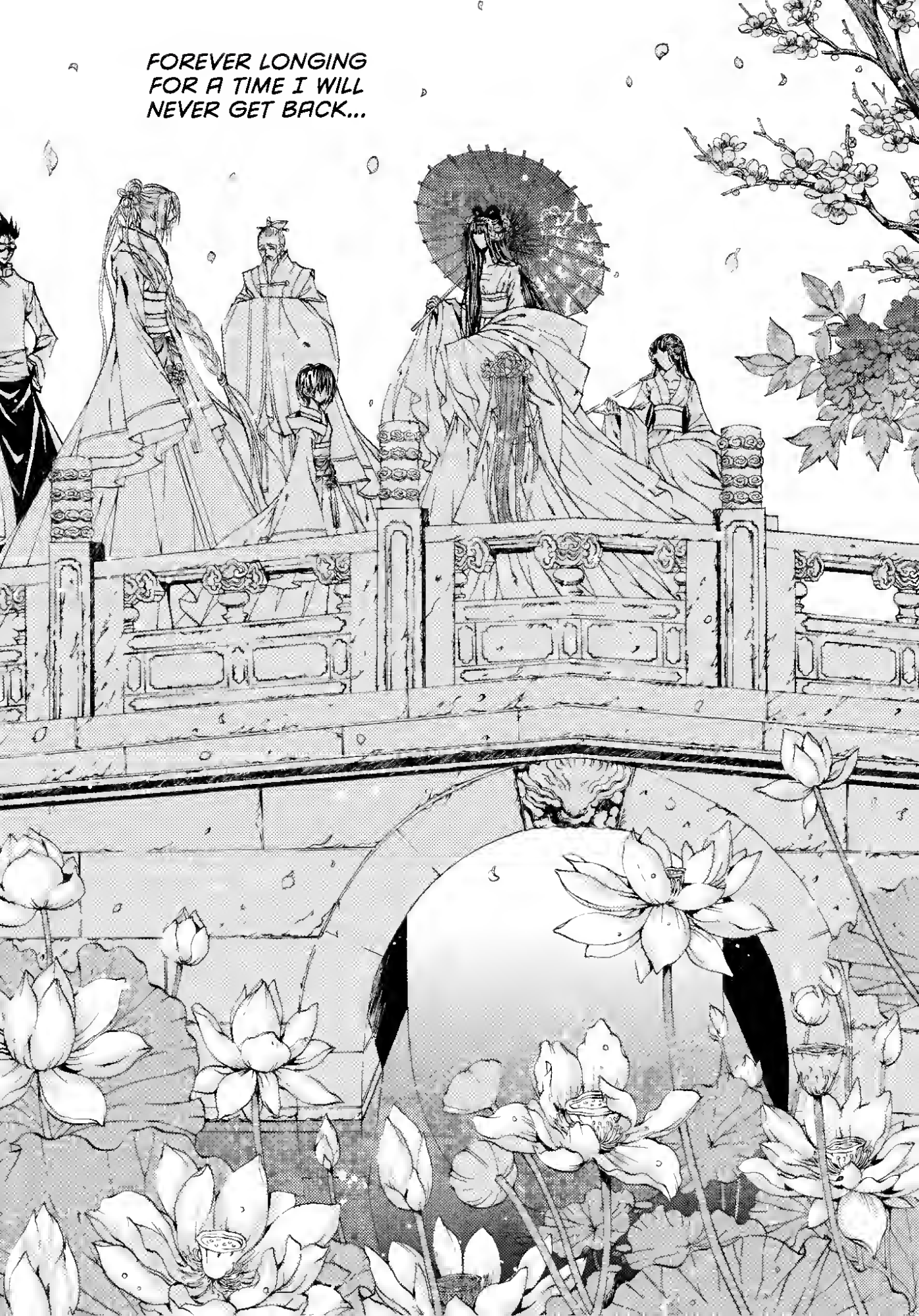

YOU TOLD ME THAT.

WHAT'S ODD IS THAT NEITHER ONE OF THOSE FOOLS SEEMS TO BE BROKEN.
STOP BEING ARROGANT.
YOU LOST, FATHER.
IF YOU REMAIN OBSESSED WITH KILLING DONG-WANG-GONG, YOU'RE DOOMED TO LOSE THE ENTIRE WAR.

SHUT UP.
IF YOU KEEP DEFYING ME, I'LL PUT A STOP TO IT.
.....
RIGHT. IT'S TOO BAD I CAN'T END THIS QUICKLY NOW.
SURELY... I NEED HABAEK.
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER AND KEPT HIM HERE.

FATHER...TO ME, YOU SEEM BROKEN.

I HATED YOU BEFORE, BUT NOW I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.
HEH! RIGHT... I'LL PROBABLY END UP BROKEN LIKE YOU ARE...


FOREVER LONGING
FOR A TIME I WILL
NEVER GET BACK...

BUT...NO, I CANNOT GO BACK...

YOUR MAJESTY.
DONG-WANG-GONG HAS REQUESTED TO SEE YOU.
DONG-WANG-GONG?
LET HIM IN.
SHFFF

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, DONG-WANG-GONG. I HAVEN'T TAKEN PROPER CARE OF MY GUESTS LATELY.
HEON-WON...

YOU WILL BE RESPECTFUL TO HIS MAJESTY!

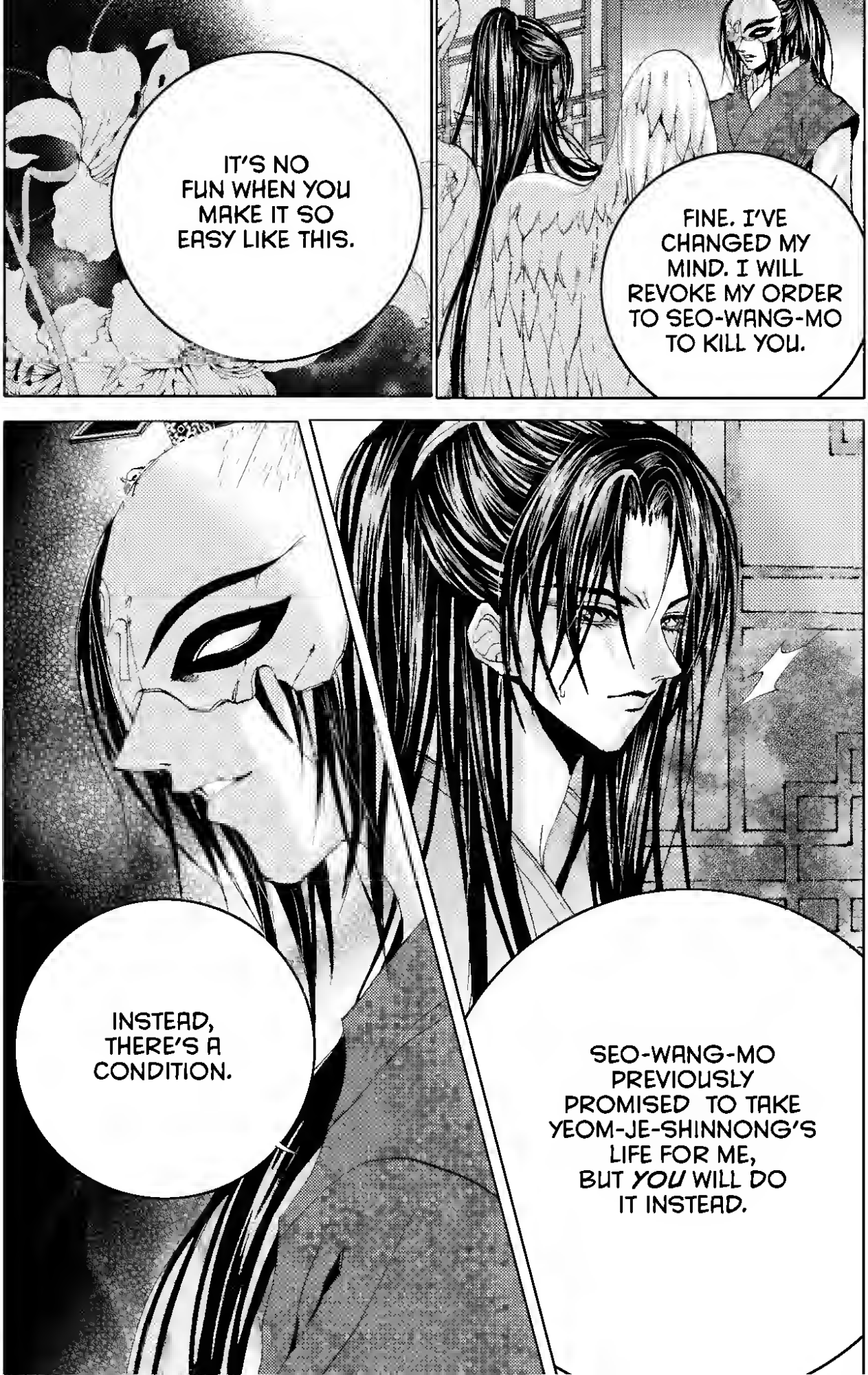
IT'S OKAY. LEAVE US ALONE.
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.

YOU ARE VERY CLOSE TO MY BROTHER... AND THAT MAKES YOU LIKE A BROTHER TO ME, TOO.
PLEASE, TELL ME WHY YOU REQUESTED TO SEE ME.

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.

I WILL GIVE YOU MY LIFE IF YOU WANT IT...
...JUST, PLEASE, STOP MAKING HER SUFFER.
HEH HEH HEH!
OH, NO! I THINK YOU'RE MISTAKEN ABOUT SOMETHING.
IF I WANTED YOUR LIFE, I WOULD HAVE TAKEN IT ALREADY.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING--ASKING SUCH A FAVOR OF ME?
THE REASON I AM ASKING...

...IS BECAUSE I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE *FEELINGS* FOR *WANG-MO.*
THAT'S WHY...ALTHOUGH I KNEW I WOULD BE RISKING MY LIFE, I CAME HERE TO SEE HER.
I REALIZED THAT LIVING ONE DAY WITH HER IS BETTER...
...THAN LIVING ETERNALLY WITHOUT HER.
I'M GIVING UP MY PLACE AMONG THE GODS SO SHE CAN HAVE PEACE.
SO... PLEASE, TAKE CARE OF HER AFTER I'M GONE, HEON-WON.


IT'S NO FUN WHEN YOU MAKE IT SO EASY LIKE THIS.
FINE. I'VE CHANGED MY MIND. I WILL REVOKE MY ORDER TO SEO-WANG-MO TO KILL YOU.
INSTEAD, THERE'S A CONDITION.
SEO-WANG-MO PREVIOUSLY PROMISED TO TAKE YEOM-JE-SHINNONG'S LIFE FOR ME, BUT *YOU* WILL DO IT INSTEAD.

YOU WILL KILL MY BROTHER. CAN YOU DO THAT FOR SEO-WANG-MO?
?!

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

My love . . .
I wanted to shelter and protect you so much . . .
So much I tried to not even think of you, even in my dreams at night . . .

IT'S NOT REALLY THAT DIFFICULT TO DECIDE, IS IT?
YOUR WIFE AND SON...OR AN OLD FRIEND.
JUST PICK.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
SHINNONG IS YOUR BROTHER! WHY DO YOU HAVE TO DO THIS?
WHY...?
HEH! YOU'RE CONFUSING ME NOW.

YOU WERE READY TO GIVE UP YOUR OWN LIFE TO HELP SOMEONE. IT SEEMED EASY FOR YOU TO DO. NOW THAT I ASK YOU TO HURT SOMEONE ELSE TO HELP YOUR WIFE AND SON, YOU HESITATE. INTERESTING.
WELL, DON'T TAKE TOO LONG TO DECIDE. I'M HOPING FOR SOME ENTERTAINMENT.
ARE YOU REGRETTING YOUR DECISION TO LEAVE THE SAFETY OF THE MOON PALACE?

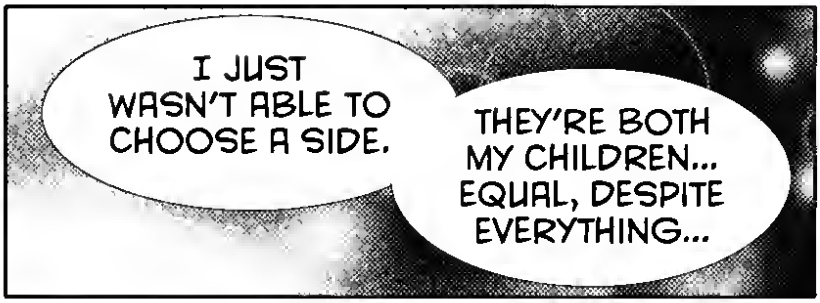
IT'S TOO EARLY FOR THAT! THERE'S A LOT COMING UP THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ADD TO YOUR PILE OF REGRETS. YOU CAN DWELL ON THEM LATER.
SACRIFICING YOURSELF LIKE SOME HERO IS NO LONGER AN OPTION, YOU SEE.
AND YOU CAN'T AVOID THE QUESTION ANY LONGER. I INSIST...

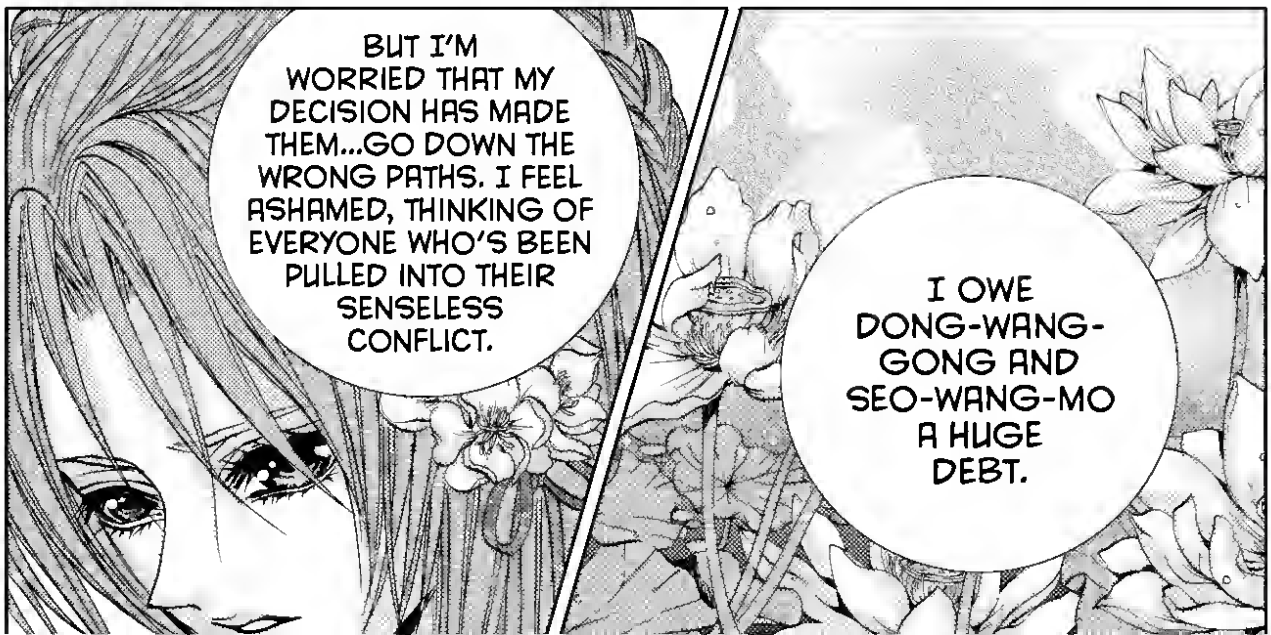
...EITHER YOU CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES, WHO TRUST YOU...
...OR YOUR WIFE AND SON, WHO YOU HAVEN'T REALLY KNOWN OR TAKEN CARE OF FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. NOW--DECIDE. NO MORE STALLING!

KOOM KROOM
YOHEE-NIM, IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
DO YOU THINK I'M A COWARD?

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

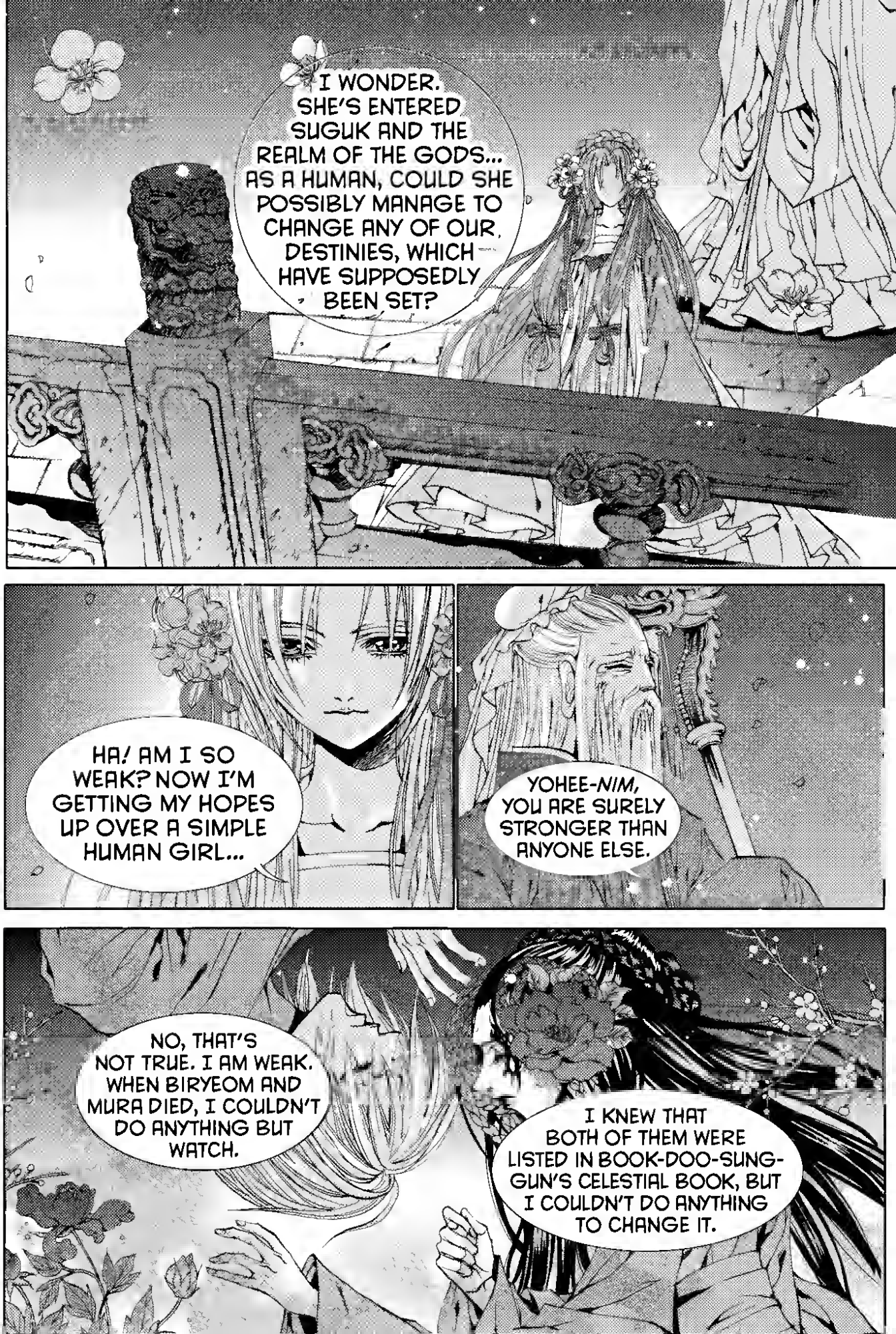
YOU DON'T NEED TO HIDE YOUR FEELINGS.


I JUST WASN'T ABLE TO CHOOSE A SIDE.
THEY'RE BOTH MY CHILDREN... EQUAL, DESPITE EVERYTHING...


BUT I'M WORRIED THAT MY DECISION HAS MADE THEM...GO DOWN THE WRONG PATHS. I FEEL ASHAMED, THINKING OF EVERYONE WHO'S BEEN PULLED INTO THEIR SENSELESS CONFLICT.
I OWE DONG-WANG-GONG AND SEO-WANG-MO A HUGE DEBT.

TO HONOR THAT DEBT, I ALWAYS WANTED TO STAY BESIDE HABAEK, PROTECTING HIM, BUT IT SEEMS THAT FATE HAS OTHER PLANS.
CAN NOTHING CHANGE OUR FATE? IS THERE REALLY NOTHING TO DO BUT ACCEPT IT?
YOHEE-NIM...
WHATEVER DONG-WANG-GONG DECIDES, IT WILL BRING ABOUT YET ANOTHER TRAGEDY.

IF THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT CHANGING OUR DESTINIES, WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO BE IGNORANT OF THE FUTURE IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
AH, WHAT MAKES ME DIFFERENT FROM THOSE WEAK HUMANS?
ACTUALLY, I SHOULDN'T SAY THAT. THERE'S SOAH, A YOUNG HUMAN WHO HAS A STRONGER HEART AND MIND THAN ME.
BEING HUMAN, SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING. SHE'S SO DARING AND RECKLESS SOMETIMES.
ARE ALL MORTAL BEINGS LIKE THAT? OR IS SOAH SOMEONE SPECIAL?

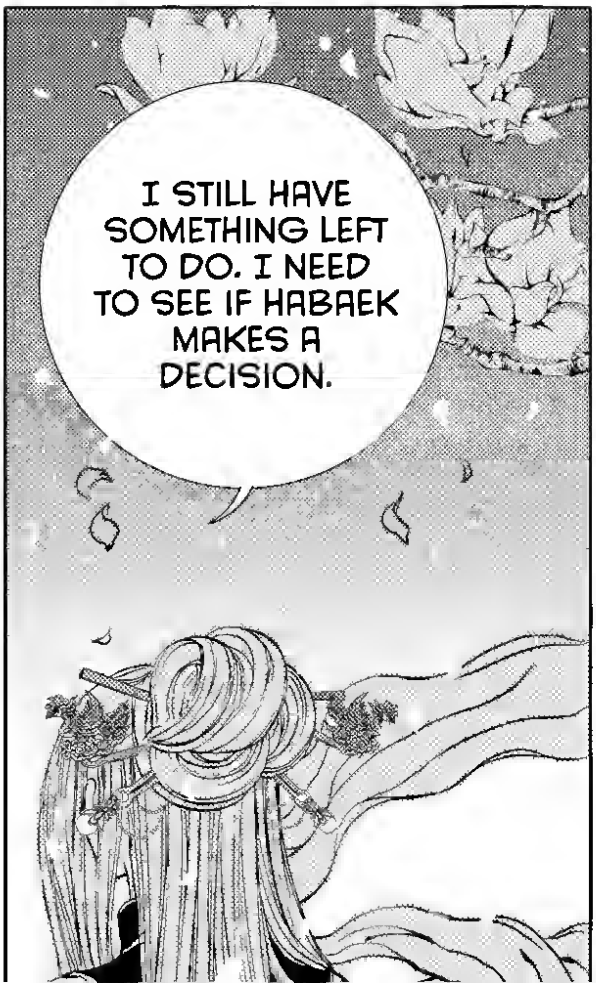

I WONDER. SHE'S ENTERED SUGUK AND THE REALM OF THE GODS... AS A HUMAN, COULD SHE POSSIBLY MANAGE TO CHANGE ANY OF OUR DESTINIES, WHICH HAVE SUPPOSEDLY BEEN SET?
HA! AM I SO WEAK? NOW I'M GETTING MY HOPES UP OVER A SIMPLE HUMAN GIRL...
YOHEE-*NIM*, YOU ARE SURELY STRONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE.
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE. I AM WEAK. WHEN BIRYEOM AND MURA DIED, I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING BUT WATCH.
I KNEW THAT BOTH OF THEM WERE LISTED IN BOOK-DOO-SUNG-GUN'S CELESTIAL BOOK, BUT I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO CHANGE IT.

"YOU'RE NOT THINKING THAT HABAEK IS THE ONLY GOD WHO'S FALLEN IN LOVE WITH A HUMAN, ARE YOU?"
KA-KOOM
KA-KOOM
KA-KOOM
IS DESTINY REALLY SOMETHING NO MORTAL OR GOD CAN AVOID?
CAN ANYONE CHANGE IT?
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
FWSH
FWUP
FWUP
FWUPPA
"IF YOU GO TO THE BAN-DO GROVE, THERE WILL COME A DAY WHEN YOU'LL REGRET YOUR DECISION TO LOVE A HUMAN. ARE YOU SURE YOU STILL WANT TO GO?"

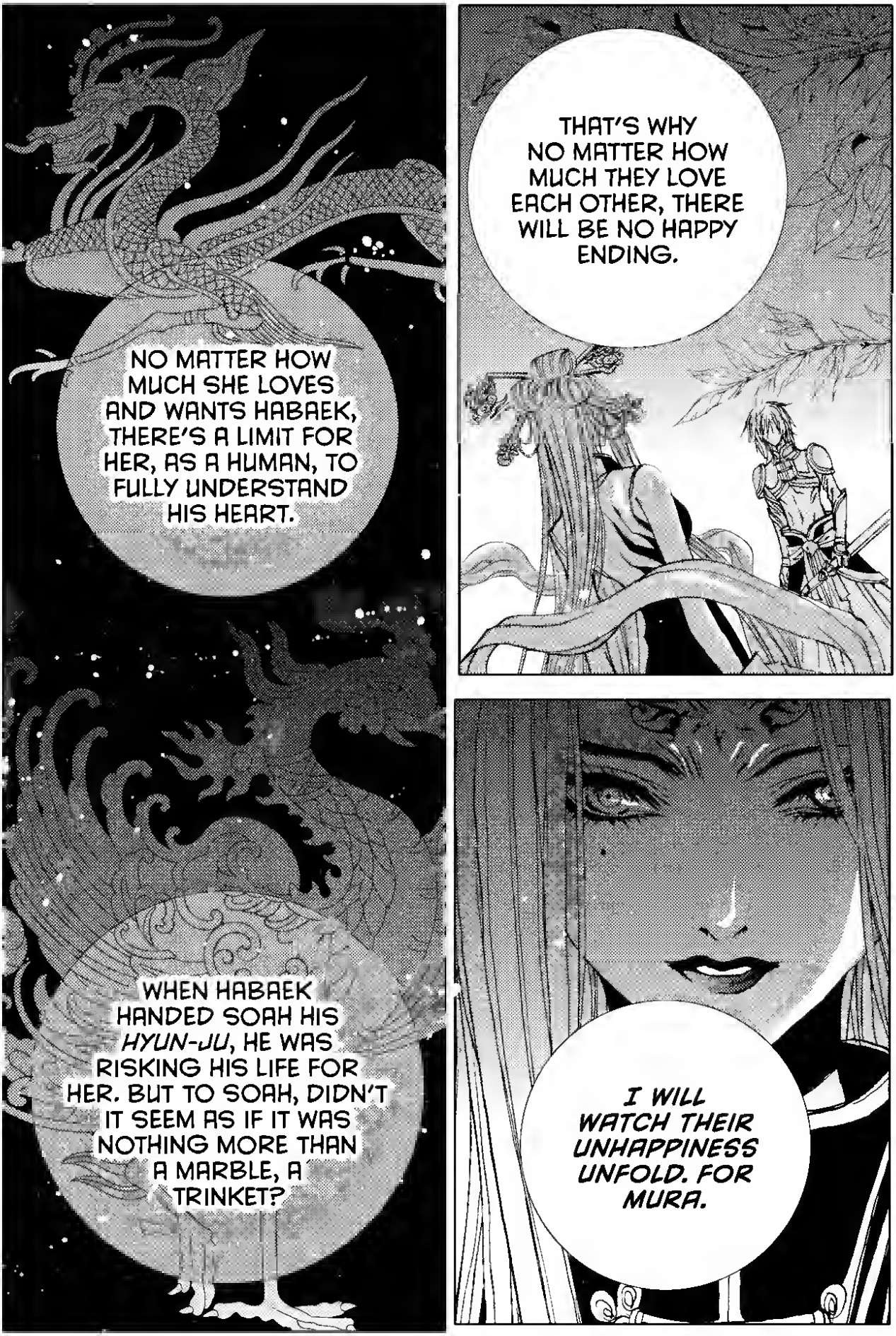
"WILL YOU GIVE UP
YOUR PLACE AS A GOD
FOR ME?"

IS THIS IT? IS THIS THE MOMENT TO MAKE THE DECISION THAT SHINNONG SAID I WOULD HAVE TO MAKE?
I THOUGHT I WAS PUTTING SOAH'S SAFETY AND HAPPINESS ABOVE ALL ELSE.
BUT... AM I REALLY FORCING HER TO MAKE A LIFE-CHANGING DECISION TOO QUICKLY?
ALL I... WHAT I WANTED WAS...

DON'T WE NEED TO LEAVE, MOTHER?


I STILL HAVE SOMETHING LEFT TO DO. I NEED TO SEE IF HABAEK MAKES A DECISION.

HABAEK CAN LOVE ANOTHER AS A GOD LOVES...
...BUT SOAH, WHO IS MORTAL, NEEDS A HUMAN KIND OF LOVE IN RETURN.

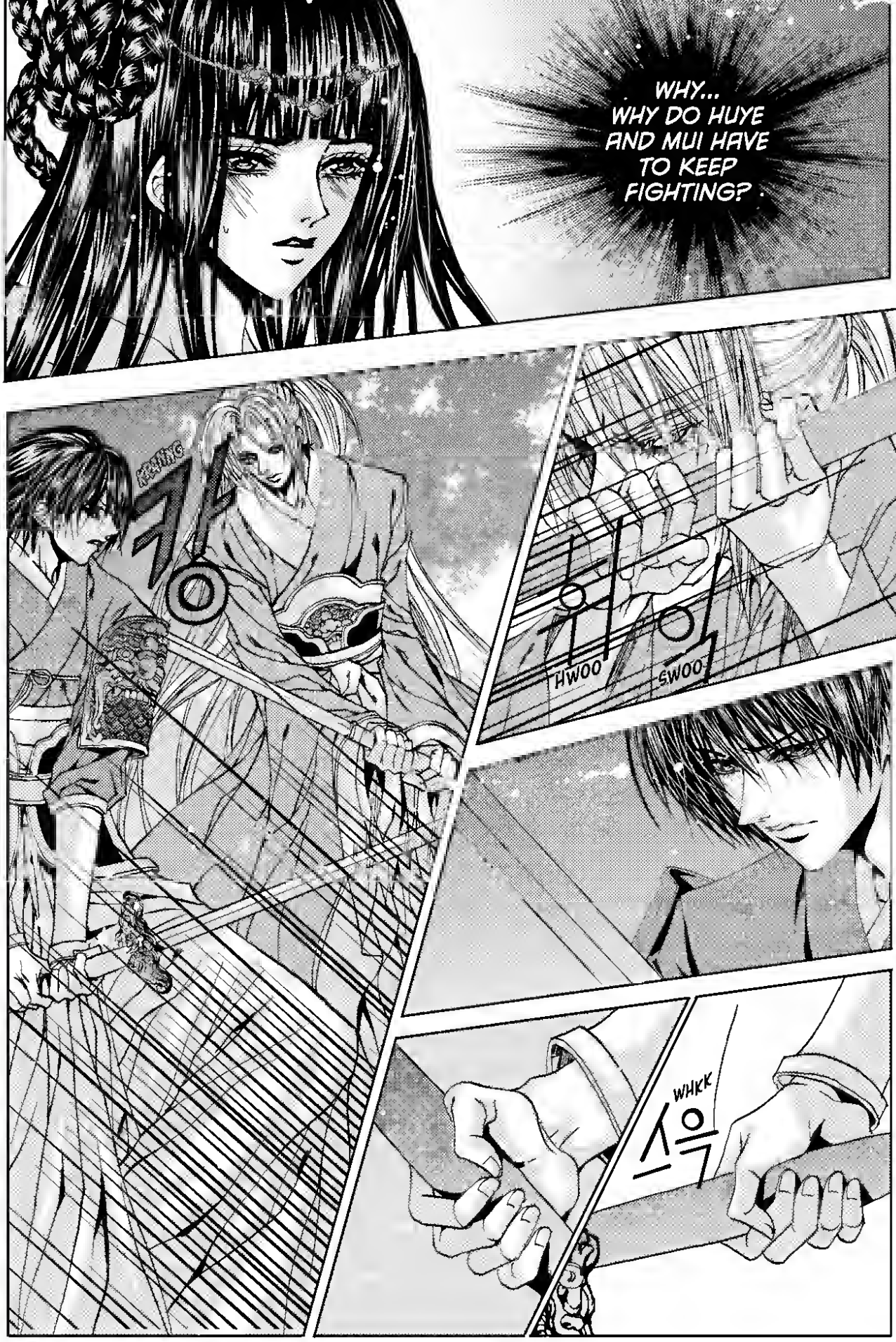

NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE LOVES AND WANTS HABAEK, THERE'S A LIMIT FOR HER, AS A HUMAN, TO FULLY UNDERSTAND HIS HEART.
WHEN HABAEK HANDED SOAH HIS *HYUN-JU*, HE WAS RISKING HIS LIFE FOR HER. BUT TO SOAH, DIDN'T IT SEEM AS IF IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A MARBLE, A TRINKET?
THAT'S WHY NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY LOVE EACH OTHER, THERE WILL BE NO HAPPY ENDING.
I WILL WATCH THEIR UNHAPPINESS UNFOLD. FOR MURA.

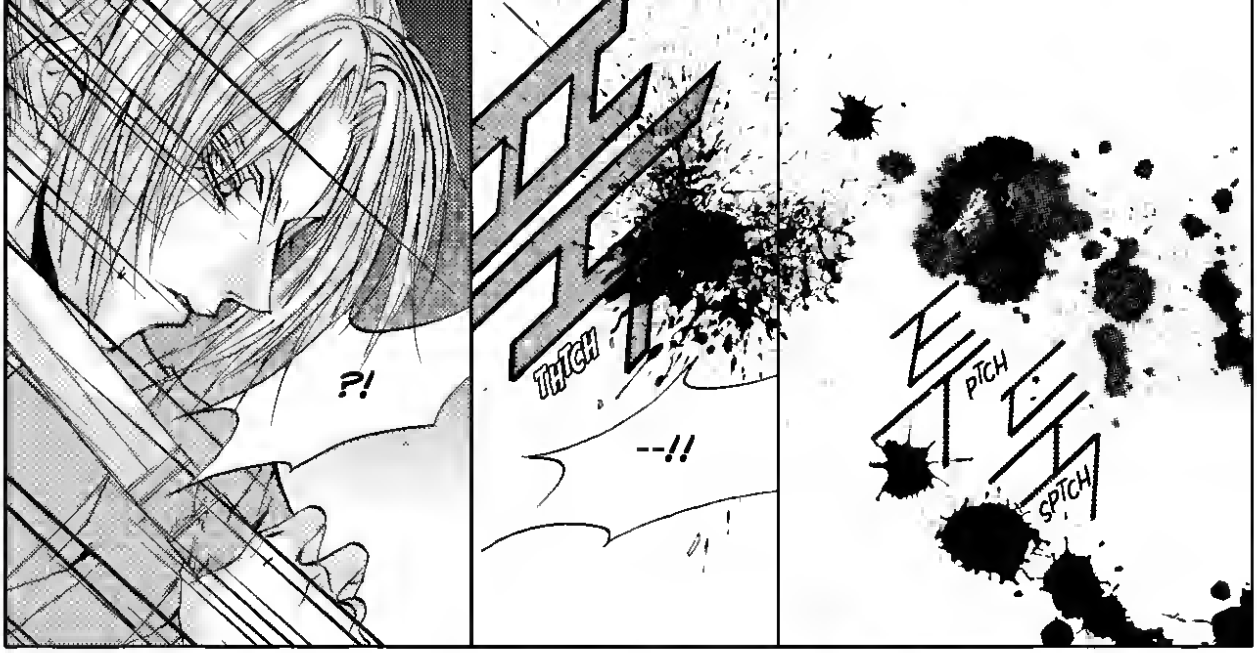
MOTHER... ARE YOU REALLY DOING THIS FOR MURA?
OR...ARE YOU ACTING LIKE THIS BECAUSE YOU SEE YOUR PAST IN THEM?
I'M SORRY I WAS SO...INSISTENT JUST NOW.
SOAH, I--

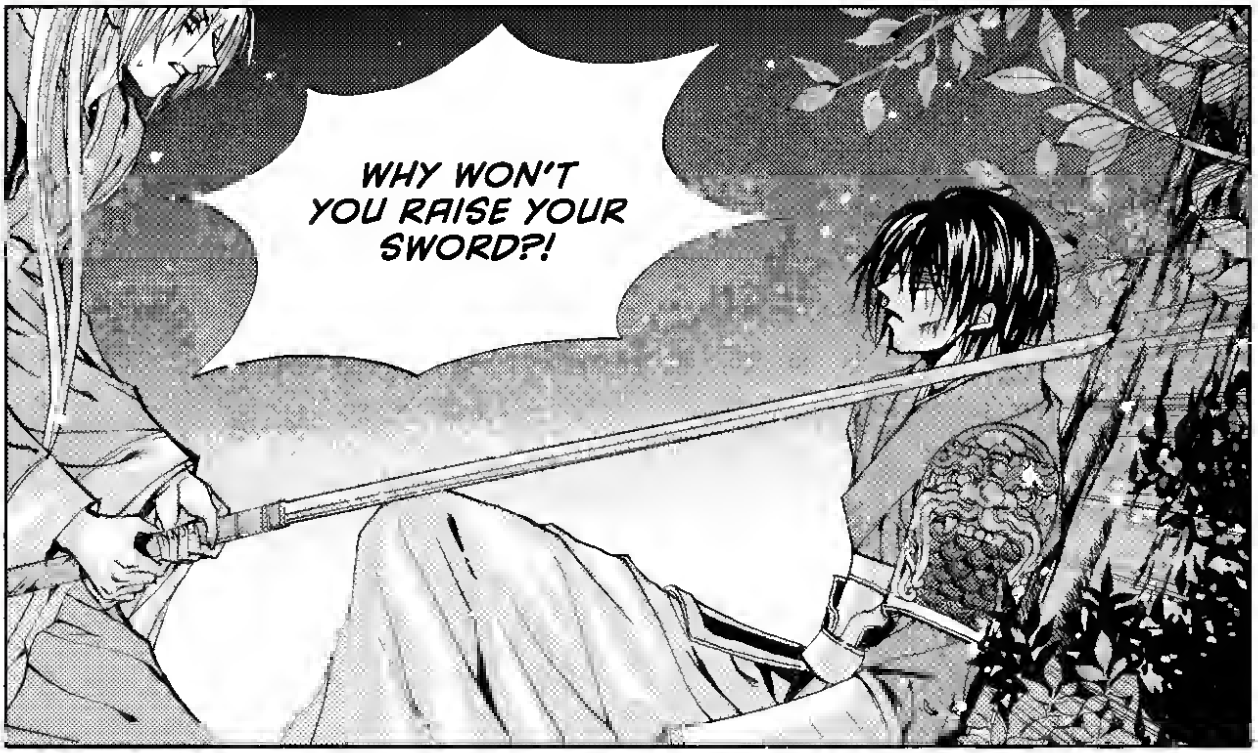
WHO'S THERE?
!!
?!
SHWKK
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SAID BEFORE?
I TOLD YOU THAT WE'D BE ENEMIES THE NEXT TIME WE SAW EACH OTHER.

LISTEN--
I HAVE ORDERS FROM THE EMPEROR! HE TOLD ME TO BRING THE WATER GOD HABAEK BACK TO HIS PALACE. IMMEDIATELY.
THE EMPEROR'S ORDER ALLOWS ME TO TAKE YOU BY FORCE, IF I NEED TO.
WHAT IF I REFUSE? WHAT'LL YOU DO THEN?

KIANNG
KRIK
KRIK


WHY... WHY DO HUYE AND MUI HAVE TO KEEP FIGHTING?
KEEHING
HWOO
SWOO
WHKK


?!
THICK
--!!
PITCH
SPITCH


WHY WON'T YOU RAISE YOUR SWORD?!

WHY ARE YOU WAITING TO CUT ME?
DELIVER A MESSAGE TO THE EMPEROR FOR ME, LACKEY. IF HE'S WORRIED ABOUT ME TURNING AGAINST HIM, HE DOESN'T NEED TO BE CONCERNED...

...BECAUSE I'M GIVING UP MY POSITION AS WATER GOD.

!!

DO YOU REALLY MEAN TO GIVE UP YOUR POWER OVER WATER?
WHAT...? WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

I'VE BEEN FORCING MY WAY, MY WORLD, ON SOAH THIS WHOLE TIME.
I THOUGHT I WAS DOING WHAT WAS BEST FOR HER, HELPING HER ADAPT.
BUT SOMETHING'S BEEN ON MY MIND... SOAH LOST EVERYTHING WHEN HER PEOPLE SENT HER TO SUGUK, BUT I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ANYTHING OF MINE FOR HER.
SO NOW...
...IT'S *MY TURN* TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING I HAVE AND GO TO THE HUMAN WORLD FOR SOAH.

MUI...
HA HA! GIVING UP ALL YOU HAVE... TO BECOME HUMAN?

THAT'S THE MOST PATHETIC AND IMMATURE IDEA I HAVE EVER HEARD.
IT'S NOT A SIMPLE THING, TO GIVE UP YOUR PLACE AS A GOD, TO JUST LEAVE.
YOU'RE TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM REALITY, SAYING IT'S FOR HER.
SOAH... SHE...DOESN'T WANT TO BECOME A GODDESS.

HUMANS USUALLY DON'T EVEN MAKE IT TO A HUNDRED YEARS.
IF SHE DOESN'T GET ETERNAL LIFE FROM THAT FRUIT, I DON'T EVEN HAVE A HUNDRED YEARS LEFT WITH HER.
ABOUT A HUNDRED YEARS...AT LEAST FOR THAT SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, I WANT TO LIVE MY LIFE SOLELY FOR HER.
SO, PLEASE, LET THIS GO. LET US GO, HUYE.

I'M ONLY CARRYING OUT HIS MAJESTY'S ORDER.
THERE IS NO REASON FOR ME TO EVEN CONSIDER YOUR NONSENSICAL REQUEST.
.....
NO!

PLEASE STOP FIGHTING!
PLEASE LET US GO, HUYE!
...!
PLEASE MOVE ASIDE.

AH...!
FWOOO
SHOOO
!!
FLOWER PETALS?

SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT--
--I HAVE BUSINESS WITH THEM, SO I'M TAKING THEM WITH ME.
SWOOSHAA
WAIT!
!!
WHO WAS THAT?

WHERE IS THIS...?
SOAH! WAKE UP! SOAH!
I PUT HER TO SLEEP, BUT DON'T WORRY. THIS IS A SAFE SPACE OF MY OWN CREATION.
WHO ARE YOU?

AH, RIGHT, I'VE MET HER, BUT YOU'VE NEVER MET ME.
I WAS ONCE IN LOVE WITH A HUMAN JUST LIKE YOU ARE NOW.
!!
I LOVED HIM SO MUCH I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING ELSE. HE WAS MY WORLD.
YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT I KNOW YOU VERY WELL.
BUT I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO GIVE UP MY POSITION AS A GOD FOR HIM.

MY LOVE FOR HIM, SO MANY FEELINGS... EVERYTHING IS SO VAGUE NOW, AFTER SO LONG...
...BUT THERE'S ONE THING I STILL THINK ABOUT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
IF I'D GIVEN UP MY PLACE AS A GOD, WOULD WE REALLY HAVE HAD A HAPPY ENDING? WELL, I'D BE DEAD BY NOW IF I'D CHOSEN THAT.
OF COURSE, IT DOESN'T MATTER. HE'S DEAD AND GONE.
IF YOU WANT TO BECOME A HUMAN FOR HER, I CAN HELP YOU.
SO, I WANT TO HELP YOU.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ARE YOU OFFERING US HELP FOR FREE?
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING.
I JUST WANT TO SEE WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED... THROUGH YOU...
THE DIFFERENT PATH I COULD HAVE TAKEN...

SHOW ME, THEN. WHAT KIND OF LIFE DOES A GOD GET TO LIVE ONCE HE BECOMES A HUMAN?
AND LET ME KNOW WHETHER OR NOT YOU EVER UNDERSTAND HOW HUMAN MINDS WORK. I'VE NEVER MADE SENSE OF THEM, TO MY FRUSTRATION. THAT'S ALL I WANT.

I...I CHOOSE TO BE A HUMAN.
SO, WHAT WILL YOU DO? DO YOU WANT MY HELP TO BECOME A HUMAN AND LIVE A HAPPY AND NORMAL LIFE WITH HER...
...OR ARE YOU SATISFIED TO LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE NOW AND REMAIN A GOD, WITH SOAH STILL A HUMAN?

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?
GOOD CHOICE.
IT'S NOT AN EASY DECISION TO MAKE. THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING ME.
IT'S NOT SO DIFFICULT TO BECOME HUMAN. OF COURSE, IT'S NOT AS IF YOU'RE LITERALLY BECOMING A HUMAN, BUT MORE LIKE TEMPORARILY COPYING THEIR FORM.
YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE FOR YOURSELF. TAKE THIS POTION. ONCE YOU WAKE UP FROM THE SLEEP IT INDUCES, YOU'LL BE HUMAN.

FWSH

THAT'S RIGHT! DRINK UP, HABAEK!
I WILL MAKE YOU REGRET EVER FALLING IN LOVE WITH A HUMAN... JUST LIKE I DID!

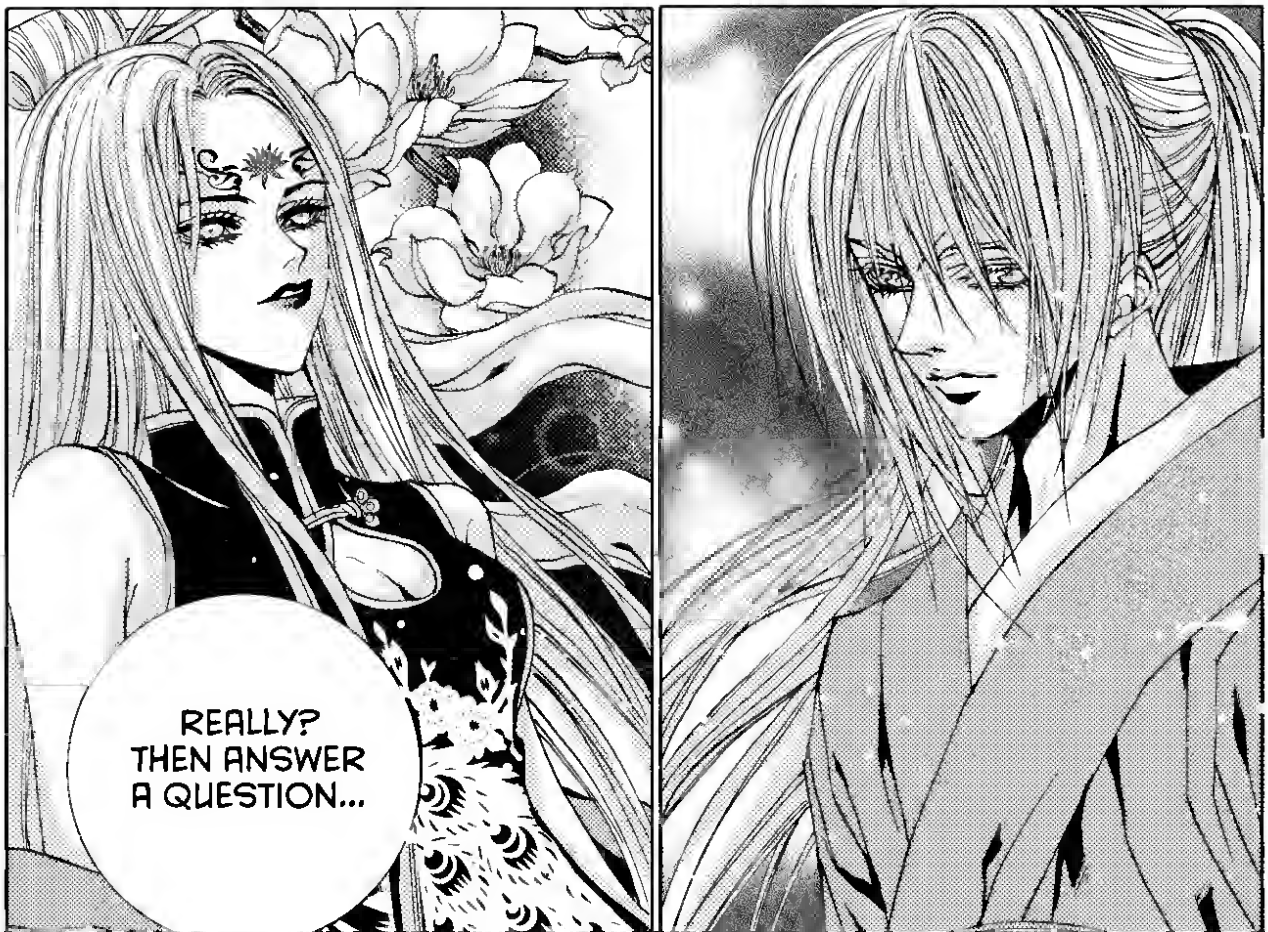
!!
SHWOOP

WHERE IS HABAEK-*NIM*?
YOU HAVE ENTERED INTO THE SECRET SPACE I, GIL-SANG-CHEON-NYEO, CREATED. YOU DEFINITELY HAVE THE BLOOD OF HIS MAJESTY.
BUT... I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU. ALL THAT EFFORT TO GET IN HERE, AND THEY'VE ALREADY LEFT.

AND HABAEK HAS GIVEN UP HIS POWERS AND POSITION AS WATER GOD OF OUR REALM.
!!
I'VE SENT THEM BOTH TO THE HUMAN WORLD, SO IF YOU WANT TO SEE THEM, YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO.

YOU'VE SPENT A LONG TIME WITH HUMANS, HAVEN'T YOU? YOU KNOW HOW THOSE WEAK AND FRAGILE CREATURES ARE ALSO SO SELFISH, EVIL, AND CRUEL.
HABAEK WILL SOON REALIZE HOW STUPID IT IS TO LOVE A HUMAN.
AND WHO ARE YOU, REALLY?
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

BEFORE I ANSWER THAT, YOU'D BETTER TELL ME WHICH SIDE *YOU'RE* ON.
I MERELY FOLLOW HIS MAJESTY'S ORDERS.


REALLY? THEN ANSWER A QUESTION...

EVEN IF HIS MAJESTY ORDERED IT, COULD YOU REALLY KILL HABAEK?
REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU WANTED TO OR NOT, THERE COULD COME A TIME WHEN YOU'D HAVE TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND AND ACT.

IF YOU HAVE TO KILL HIM, THERE SIMPLY ISN'T A BETTER TIME THAN NOW, WHILE HE'S A WEAK HUMAN.
AND IF I WERE THE EMPEROR, I WOULD ORDER YOU TO KILL HIM RIGHT THIS SECOND. SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK-- *COULD YOU KILL HIM?*
FWOOSH

HWOOOSHAAA

쌔애애애애...
HWOOOSH
스읏
FWP
쌔애
WSHAAA
사락
FLUTTER
사락
FLUTTER
IT'S THE MOON...

MUI!
SOAH, LOOK!
THERE'S THE MOON, SEEN FROM THE MORTAL WORLD.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
I NEVER REALIZED HOW BEAUTIFUL THE MOON WAS WHEN I WAS IN THE REALM OF THE GODS. IT'S ONE OF THE FEW THINGS OUR WORLDS SHARE-- WELL, USED TO...

MUI...ARE YOU SAYING THAT... WE'RE IN THE HUMAN WORLD?
IS THIS... HOW A HUMAN'S MIND WORKS?
YES. THAT'S RIGHT.

I MET A GODDESS WHO ONCE LOVED A HUMAN. SHE HELPED ME BECOME A HUMAN, AND THEN SENT US STRAIGHT TO THE HUMAN WORLD... I GUESS.
OH, NO...
GIL-SANG-CHEON-NYEO...? SHE TURNED MUI INTO A HUMAN?
MUI, I'M SO SORRY.
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. BECAUSE OF WHAT I SAID...

WISH
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
THIS IS MY DECISION. I WANTED TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER, GET CLOSER TO YOU.

NOW I SEEM TO BE A NORMAL HUMAN.
LIKE YOU.
THOUGH I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS WORLD.
SOAH, YOU MUST HAVE FELT THE SAME WAY WHEN YOU FIRST CAME TO...SUGUK.
WSH

IT'S OKAY.
PLEASE DON'T WORRY--NOT AT ALL. BECAUSE I'M HERE FOR YOU.
I'LL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS WORLD, STEP BY STEP.
JUST AS YOU DID FOR ME...

WE CAN FORGET ABOUT THE WAR BETWEEN THE GODS...
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT BEING TORN APART...WE CAN LIVE A SIMPLE LIFE TOGETHER...
LET'S FIND MY HOME.
MY MOTHER WILL WELCOME US THERE.

"SOAH, YOU MUST BE HAPPY...
"BE A HAPPY BRIDE."
NOW I CAN BE A HAPPY BRIDE AMONG MY OWN PEOPLE.
끼이익
KREEEE
WHO IS IT?
!!

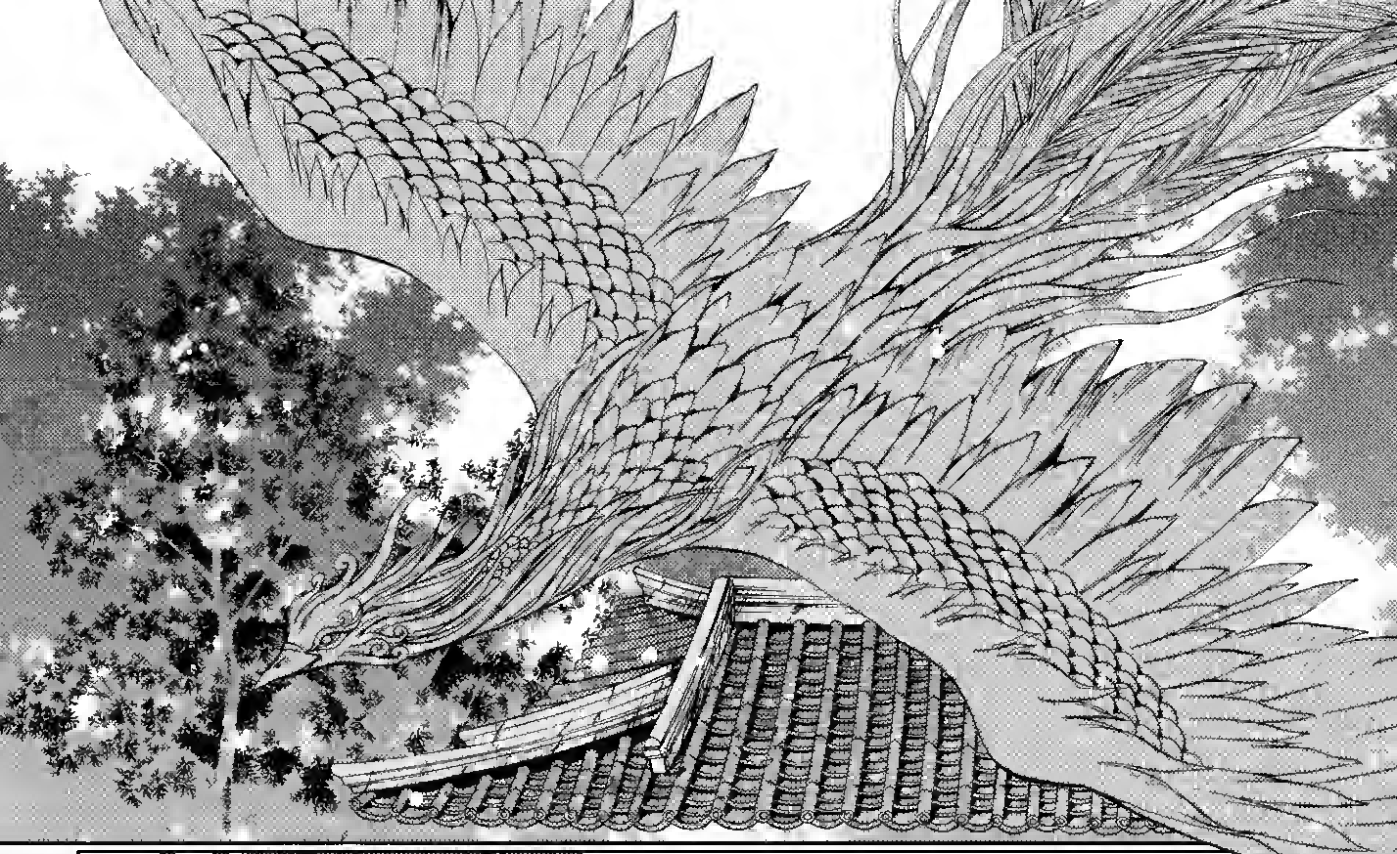
MOM...?
SOAH! IS IT REALLY YOU, SOAH?
YES, MOM.
IT'S ME, SOAH. I'M BACK.
I'VE RETURNED HOME...TO MY REAL HOME.

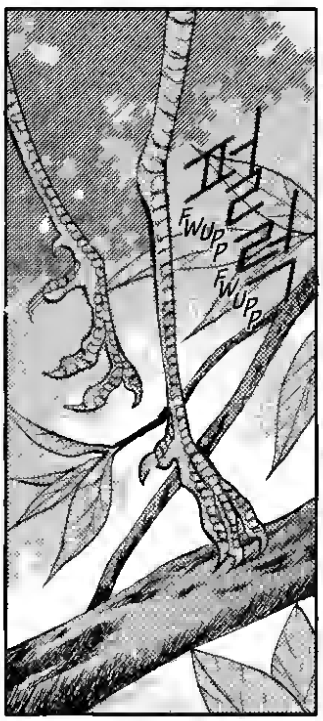
NO NEED TO CRY ANYMORE.
THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT FROM NOW ON.
짹... PREEP
짹... PREE
짹... PREE
YES...
IT'S CLEAR NOW... WE SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING...
!!

I FORGOT ABOUT ONE THING...
WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THIS?

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THAT GIRL?
THE ONE WHO WAS SACRIFICED A WHILE AGO AND RETURNED LATER WITH NO MEMORIES...?
YOU MEAN SOAH? WHAT ABOUT HER? DIDN'T SHE GO MISSING AGAIN SOON AFTER THAT?
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE JUST CAME BACK AGAIN. AND THIS TIME, SHE'S NOT ALONE.

GOOD LORD, I BET SHE HAD A SON AND BROUGHT HIM BACK HERE WITH HER.
AH, I HEARD THAT TOO!
DO YOU THINK SHE HAD A SON WITH THE WATER GOD?
THAT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE.
펄럭
FWUPP FWUPP
THE WATER GOD STORY IS ALL MADE UP.




FWUPP
FWUPP

IS THAT BOY TRULY... YOUR SON, SOAH?

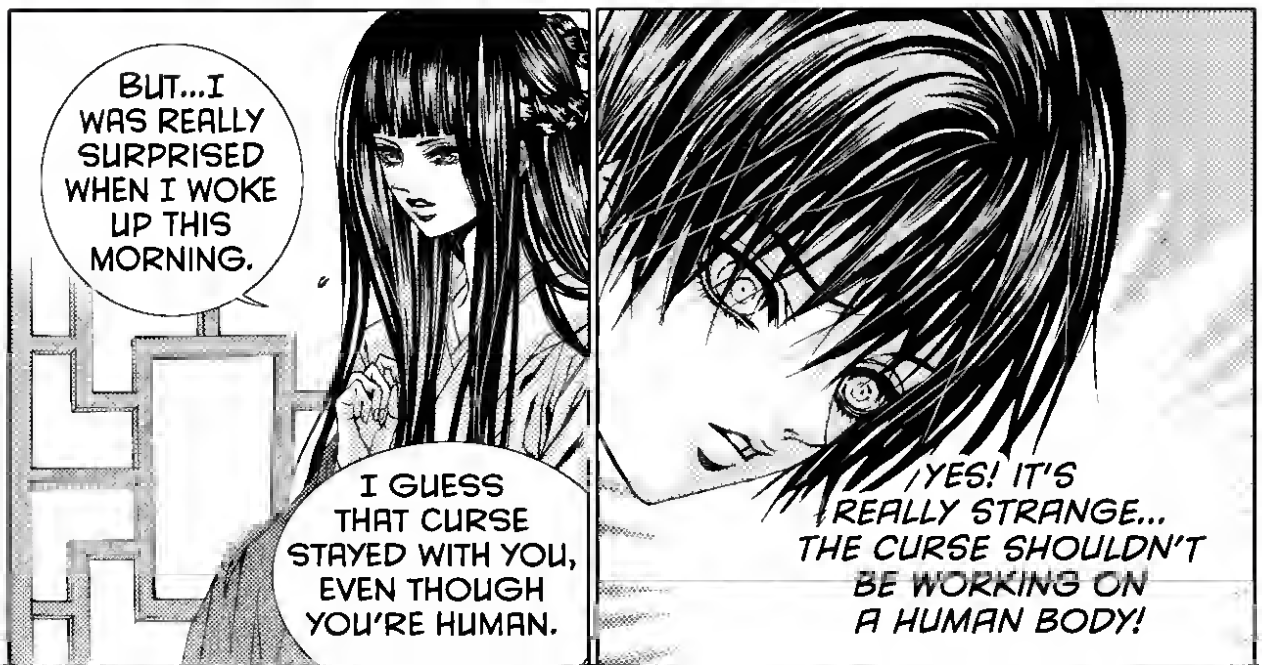
YES. I'M SORRY, MOM, BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU ANY MORE.
THEN...THE MAN YOU WERE WITH LAST NIGHT--IS HE THE FATHER? IF YOU DON'T TELL ME, I'LL ASK HIM MYSELF.
WHERE IS HE NOW?
HE'S...NOT HERE. BUT...HE *WILL* COME BACK TONIGHT.

PEOPLE IN TOWN ARE GOSSIPING ABOUT IT. THANKFULLY YOUR FATHER ISN'T HERE.
THESE DAYS, HE DISAPPEARS FOR WEEKS AT A TIME. HE ONLY COMES BACK WHEN HE'S OUT OF MONEY. I'M AFRAID HE MAY BE COMING BACK SOON...
I'M SORRY, MOTHER. I'M SORRY I CAN'T TELL YOU EVERYTHING... BUT...
...BUT I CAN TELL YOU ONE THING. I AM VERY HAPPY RIGHT NOW.

HE REALLY IS A GOOD MAN. I'M SURE YOU'LL LIKE HIM, TOO.
HE'S GIVEN UP EVERYTHING FOR ME...
WHAT?! WHAT DID YOU TELL THEM?!
YOU SAID... THAT I'M YOUR SON?

WHY DIDN'T YOU EXPLAIN THINGS PROPERLY?
I WANTED TO, BUT I JUST *COULDN'T!* WHO WOULD BELIEVE THE TRUTH IN THIS WORLD?
I'M SORRY, MUI.

YOU'LL CHANGE AGAIN AT NIGHT--AND THEN WE'LL TAKE THE TIME TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.
THAT WAY, WE CAN MAKE MOM UNDERSTAND.


BUT...I WAS REALLY SURPRISED WHEN I WOKE UP THIS MORNING.
I GUESS THAT CURSE STAYED WITH YOU, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE HUMAN.
YES! IT'S REALLY STRANGE... THE CURSE SHOULDN'T BE WORKING ON A HUMAN BODY!

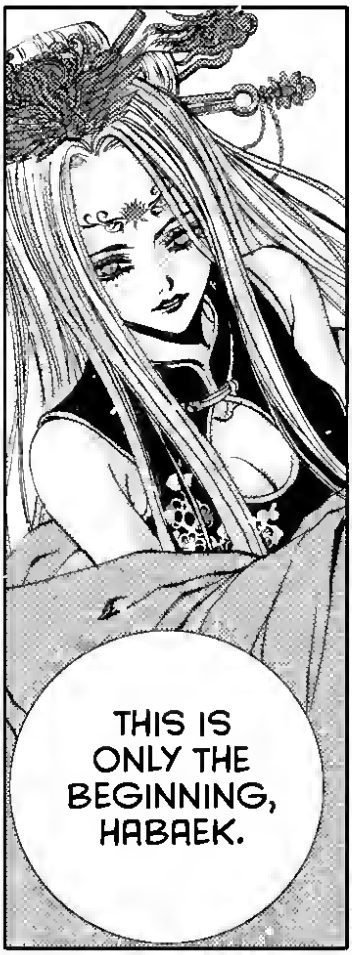
I SHOULDN'T GET AHEAD OF MYSELF HERE--IT'S TOO EARLY TO MAKE ANY HASTY ASSUMPTIONS. LET'S WAIT UNTIL NIGHT COMES.

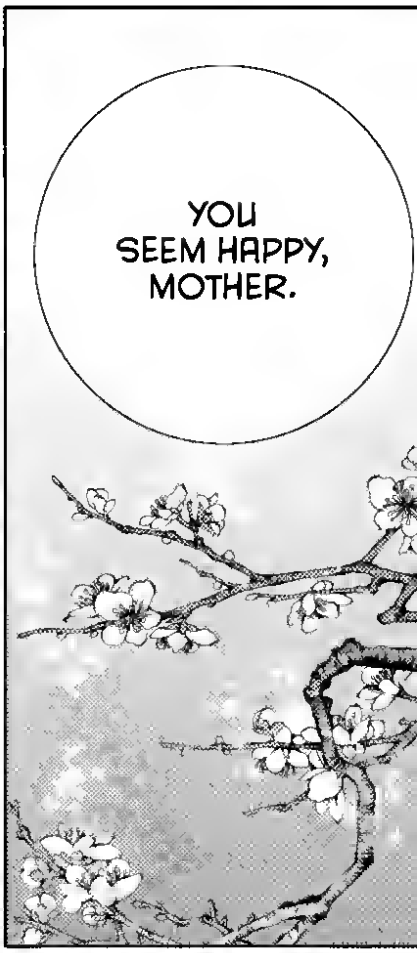
MUI, IT'S ALREADY WAY PAST MIDNIGHT.
I SHOULD CHANGE AT NIGHT, BUT WHY AM I STILL IN THIS FORM?

DAMN!
THAT WOMAN...
WHAT DID SHE
DO TO ME?

FWUP FWUPPA
HE MUST REALIZE HOW THINGS ARE GOING TO BE FROM NOW ON. HE MUST BE VERY ANGRY. HEH HEH! SORRY, BUT IF EVERYTHING STAYED THE SAME, IT'D BE TOO BORING.

IT'S A PITY I CAN'T SEE THE LOOK ON HIS FACE, BUT HE SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED...


THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING, HABAEK.


YOU SEEM HAPPY, MOTHER.

HABAEK IS A HUMAN NOW, WHICH MEANS HE'S BENEATH YOUR NOTICE.
WHY ARE YOU STILL SO OBSESSED WITH THEM?
ISN'T IT FUN? YOU DON'T THINK SO? THINK ABOUT IT.
HE WAS THE WATER GOD, WITH HIGH SELF-ESTEEM, PRIDE, AND POWER. IMAGINE SUCH A GOD LIVING AS A WEAK HUMAN CHILD NOW.
BUT IT'S JUST BEGUN...
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE ALL OF HIS REACTIONS WHEN HE DISCOVERS WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR HIM AND SOAH...

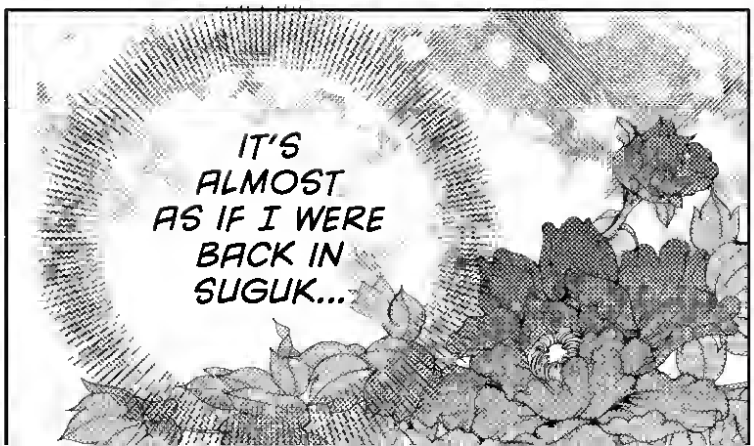
I DON'T MIND IF YOU'RE STUCK LIKE THIS FOR NOW. WHAT MATTERS IS THAT WE'RE TOGETHER.
AND WE MAY BE ABLE TO FIND A SOLUTION IN THE FUTURE. A WAY TO REVERSE IT.
AH, RIGHT. YEAH, MAYBE. WHO KNOWS...
휘익
HWIP

MUI! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GOING OUT FOR A WALK.
I'LL BE BACK SOON...
...MOTHER.
STUNNED
MUH... MOTHER?!
WHY IS MUI SO ANGRY? DID I SAY SOMETHING TO UPSET HIM?

SHE'S REALLY OKAY WITH ME BEING STUCK LIKE THIS?
WHAT CAN I DO-- A TINY LITTLE KID?!
I CAN'T PROTECT SOAH OR EVEN MYSELF IN THIS FORM.
.....
DO I HEAR WATER...?
I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS, ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON SOAH.

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A POND AROUND HERE.

ALTHOUGH I'VE LOST MY POWER OVER WATER, BEING HERE COMFORTS ME.


IT'S ALMOST AS IF I WERE BACK IN SUGUK...

HUH? A LITTLE BOY? IS HE OUT HERE ALL BY HIMSELF WITHOUT HIS PARENTS?
THIS POND IS SO DEEP. IT'S DANGEROUS FOR SUCH A LITTLE CHILD TO BE NEAR IT.
FWSH
AH!
OH, NO! IS HE JUMPING IN?
LITTLE BOY! NOOO!

?!
I'VE CAST A SECOND CURSE UPON HIM.
SPOOSHAA

IF HE TOUCHES WATER, HE REVERTS TO HIS ORIGINAL FORM, EVEN DURING THE DAYTIME.
THAT'S THE SPELL I'VE CAST ON HIM.
THAT SEEMS SUSPICIOUSLY NICE. HE CAN CHANGE HIS FORM BACK TO NORMAL?
BUT THERE IS ONE CONDITION. IT'S ANOTHER PART OF MY CURSE.
SPSH
SPSH

HEY, KID! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
!!
?
첨벙
PLOOSH
DRIP
DRIP

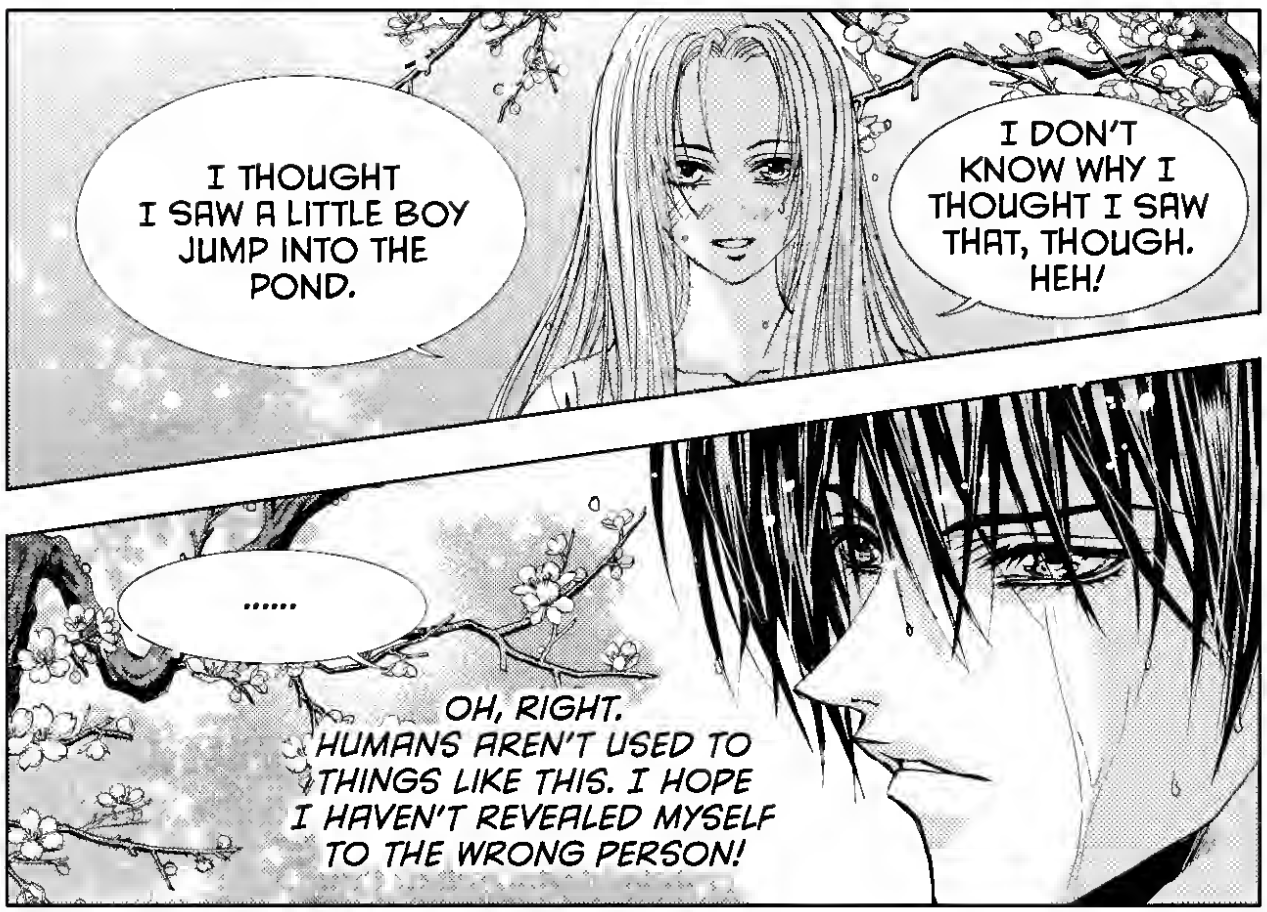
GET THIS-- WHEN SOAH IS NEAR HIM, HE WON'T REMAIN IN HIS ADULT FORM!

OH, WHAT IS GOING ON HERE...?
WHAT HAPPENED? I CHANGED BACK TO NORMAL, EVEN THOUGH IT'S DAYTIME.

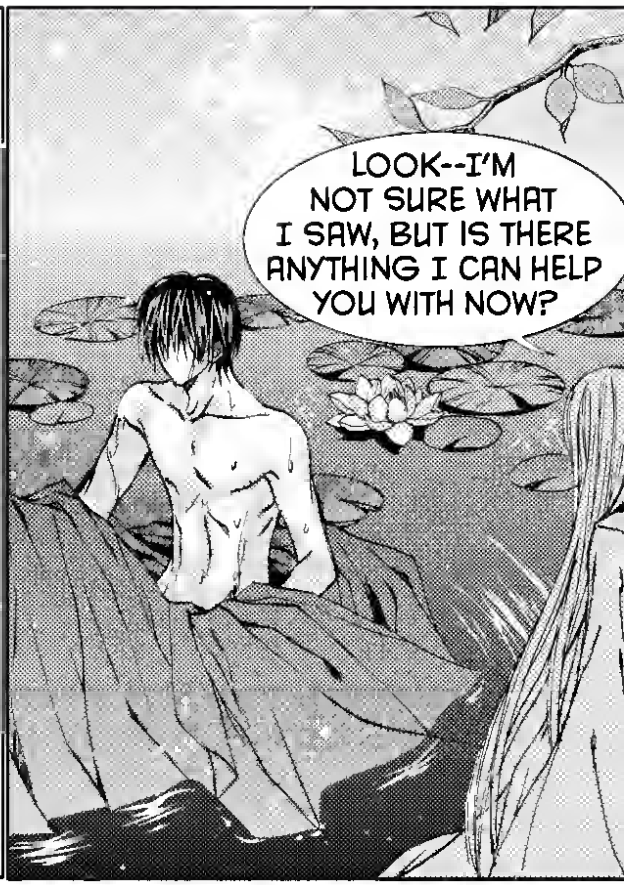
슥
FWSH
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I SAW THE SUN IN MY TRUE FORM?

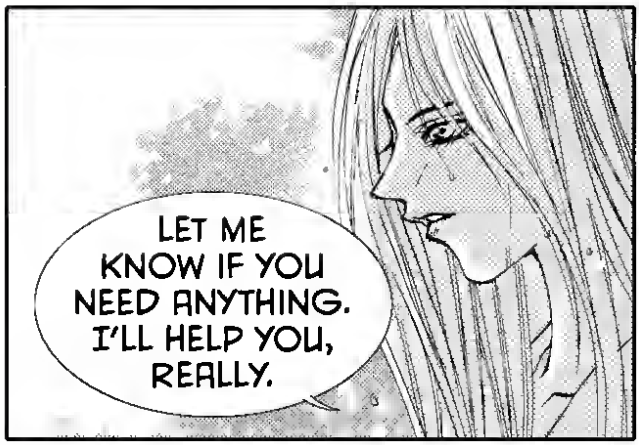
BUT WHAT MADE ME SWITCH BACK ALL OF A SUDDEN?
NO... WAIT...
MAYBE THE CURSE HAS CHANGED BECAUSE I'M A HUMAN NOW?
WHAT'S GOING ON? HE WAS A LITTLE BOY A MOMENT AGO...OR AM I MISTAKEN?
두근 BA-BMMP
두근 BA-BMMP
두근 BA-BMMP
THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE...

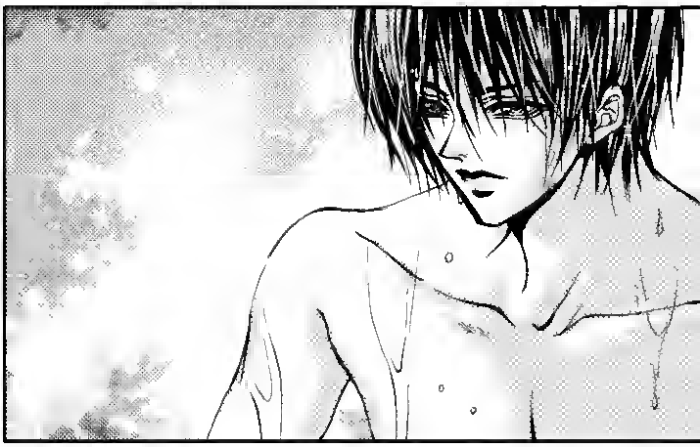
BUT, WAIT... IS HE EVEN A REAL PERSON? I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL MAN IN MY LIFE...
휙 HWIP
깜짝 STARTLE
AH! I... AM...SORRY. I THINK I WAS CONFUSED.

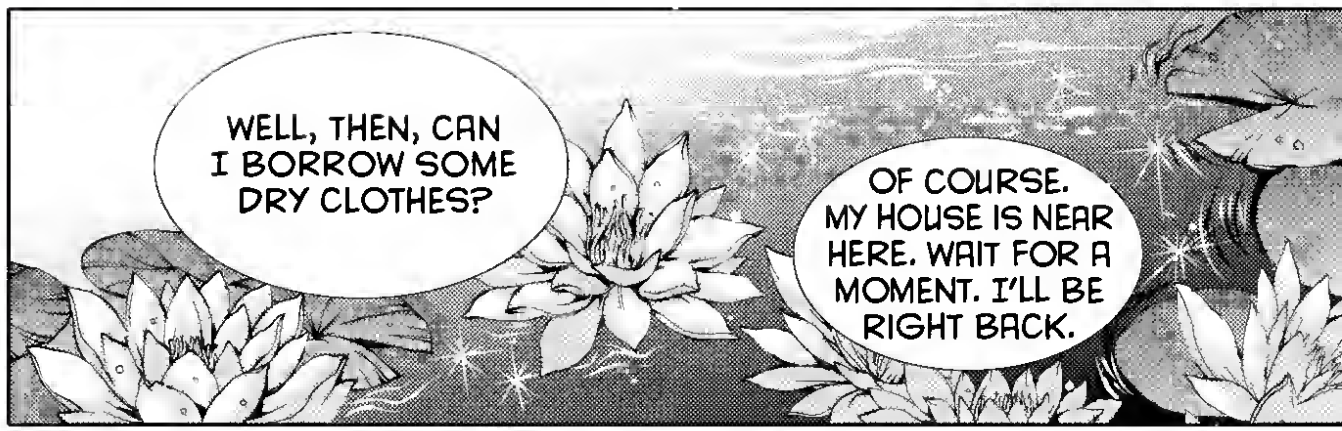

I THOUGHT I SAW A LITTLE BOY JUMP INTO THE POND.
I DON'T KNOW WHY I THOUGHT I SAW THAT, THOUGH. HEH!
.....
OH, RIGHT. HUMANS AREN'T USED TO THINGS LIKE THIS. I HOPE I HAVEN'T REVEALED MYSELF TO THE WRONG PERSON!

I DON'T KNOW HOW I SWITCHED TO NORMAL, BUT I NEED TO GET BACK TO SOAH'S PLACE.


LOOK--I'M NOT SURE WHAT I SAW, BUT IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH NOW?


LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANYTHING. I'LL HELP YOU, REALLY.




WELL, THEN, CAN I BORROW SOME DRY CLOTHES?
OF COURSE. MY HOUSE IS NEAR HERE. WAIT FOR A MOMENT. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

SOAH WILL BE SURPRISED WHEN SHE LEARNS ABOUT THIS!
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
SOAH!
SOAH!!
덜컥!
KCHAK
MUI? IS THAT YOU? ARE YOU OKAY?
WE CAN FINALLY LIVE A NORMAL LIFE TOGETHER AMONG HUMANS!
MUI...?!

WHAT DID YOU DO WITH YOUR CLOTHES? WHY ARE YOU WEARING SUCH A BIG...DRESS THING?
WHAT HAPPENED?!
WHY DID YOU CALL FOR ME SO URGENTLY? IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
THIS CAN'T BE... NO, THIS CAN'T BE...
I SWITCHED BACK TO A LITTLE BOY'S BODY?!

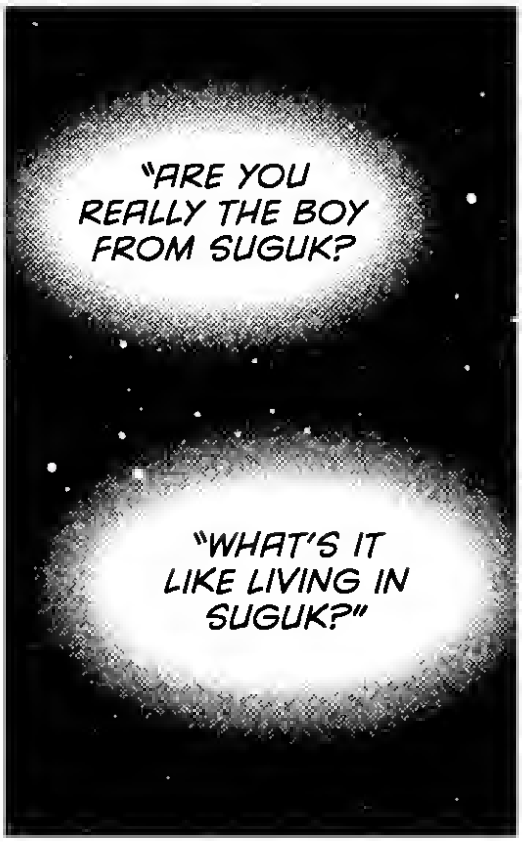
WHAT MADE ME CHANGE EARLIER?
...I CHANGED BECAUSE OF THE WATER?
AH, I SEE! MAYBE...
WHAT ELSE?!
촤아아
SPLOOSHAA
WHAT THE--? MUI...? WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?

N-NOTHING, I GUESS.
PLIP
PLIP
I GUESS I FELT TOO HOT ALL OF A SUDDEN.
PLIP
PLIP
HE'S BEEN WEIRD AND GRUMPY SINCE WE GOT HOME.
PERHAPS LOSING HIS POWER AS A GOD WAS TOO MUCH OF A SHOCK. OH, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
IT DEFINITELY WORKED EARLIER, BUT WHY NOT NOW? DIDN'T TOUCHING WATER CAUSE THE CHANGE?
HEY, YOU! ARE YOU REALLY THE BOY FROM SUGUK?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THIS WATER IS FROM A WELL? TOMORROW, I'LL GO BACK TO THE POND THAT I FOUND.

THIS GIRL... SHE'S SOAH'S SISTER.
WHAT'S IT LIKE LIVING IN SUGUK?
HAVE YOU SEEN HABAEK? WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE?
I DON'T WANT TO BE RUDE, BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DEAL WITH A CHILD'S ENDLESS QUESTIONS.
HWIK
IS IT TRUE THAT HABAEK IS AN UGLY, MONSTROUS FREAK?
FREEZE
HA HA! WHO TOLD YOU SUCH NONSENSE?
I HEARD FROM SOME PEOPLE IN TOWN THAT THE WATER GOD IS SO UGLY THAT EVERY WOMAN CRINGES FROM HIM. THAT'S WHY HE KEEPS ASKING FOR FEMALE SACRIFICES.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. THE WATER GOD IS...

...HANDSOME, WITH GLOWING SKIN. AND HE'S TALL. HE'S ACTUALLY VERY POPULAR AMONG FEMALES.
HE SEEMED REALLY BUSY BACK IN SUGUK, TURNING DOWN ALL THE LADIES FOLLOWING HIM.
MUI...IS THAT HOW IT WAS, NOW...?
.....
THE TRUTH IS THAT HABAEK WAS REALLY NOT INTO YOUR SISTER, BUT SHE GROUND HIM DOWN UNTIL HE AGREED TO TOLERATE HER.

SO I'M NOT CHANGING AGAIN. NOT EVEN AT NIGHT.


"ARE YOU REALLY THE BOY FROM SUGUK?
"WHAT'S IT LIKE LIVING IN SUGUK?"

SUGUK... SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PLACE...

THE WORLD I GAVE UP...THE PEOPLE I LEFT BEHIND...
MOTHER... ARE YOU SAFE?
SHE'LL BE SAD WHEN SHE FINDS OUT THAT I DECIDED TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING AND BE A HUMAN FOR SOAH.

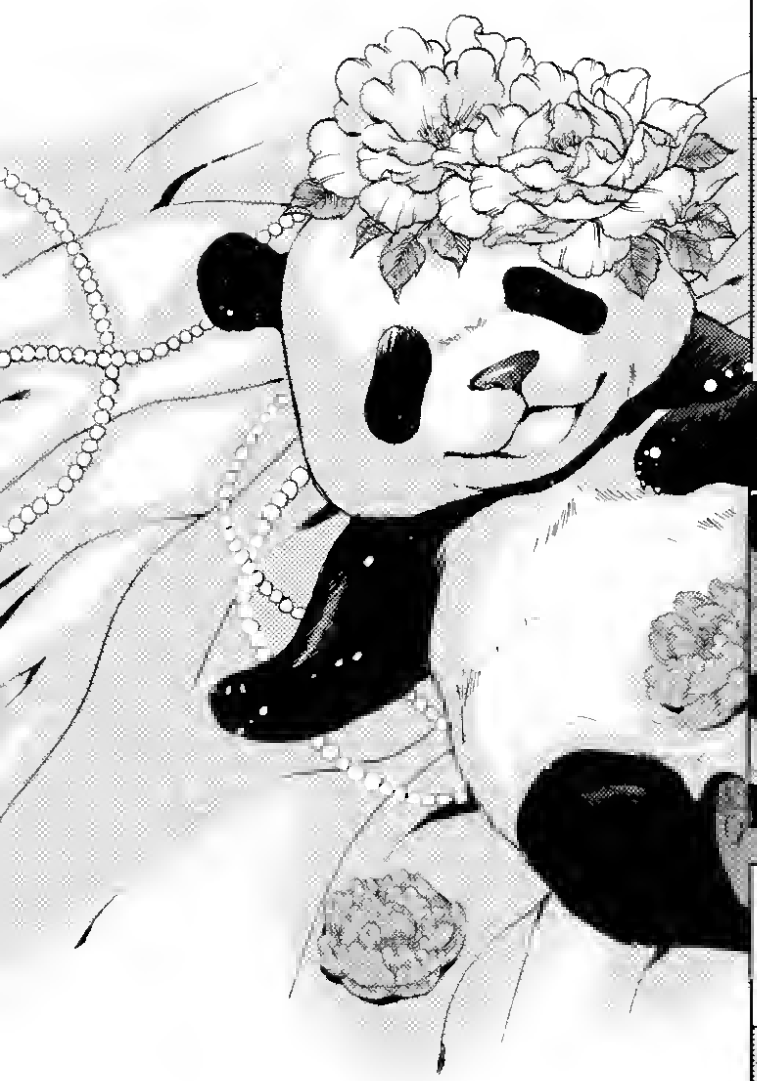
OH, MUI...

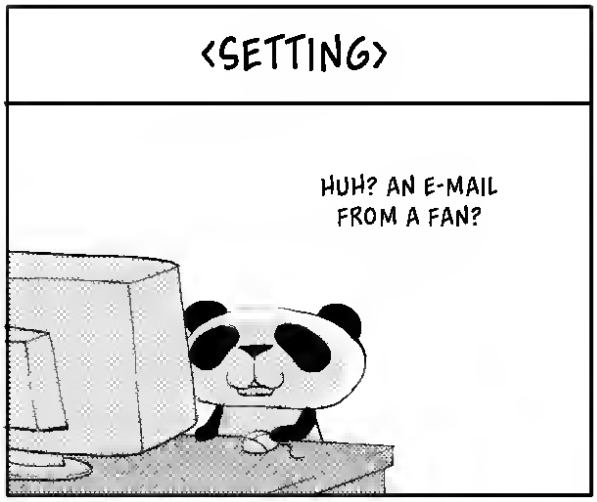
HUH.
WOW! IT'S
TRUE!
HABAEK
HAS REALLY
TURNED HIMSELF
INTO A HUMAN.
THE EMPEROR
WILL BE
THRILLED!

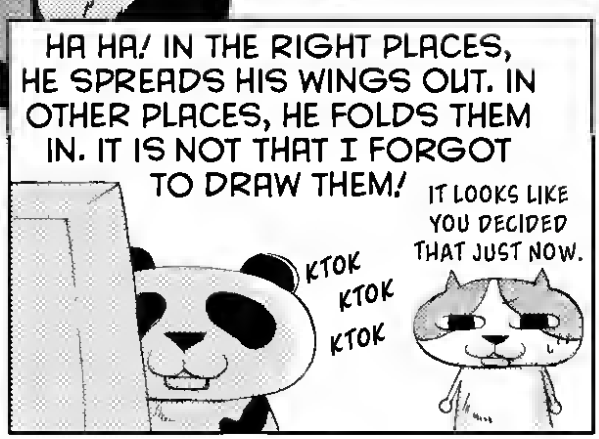
BRIDE of the WATER GOD

MI-GAENG'S ☆CLOSING DIARY☆

("MI-GAENG" IS MI-KYUNG YUN'S NICKNAME.)



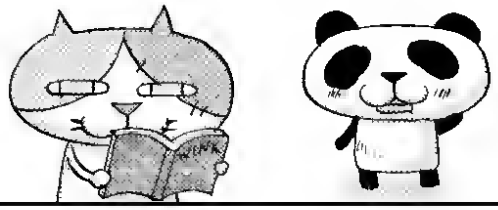



HA HA! IN THE RIGHT PLACES, HE SPREADS HIS WINGS OUT. IN OTHER PLACES, HE FOLDS THEM IN. IT IS NOT THAT I FORGOT TO DRAW THEM!
KTOK KTOK KTOK
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU DECIDED THAT JUST NOW.

<COMPLIMENT>

THIS *BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD* VOLUME IS QUITE GOOD.

WOW, DID YOU JUST COMPLIMENT MY BOOK?



BUT THIS GIRL WHO FALLS INTO THE WATER WHEN HABAEK FALLS IN TOO IS SOAH, RIGHT? WHY IS HER HAIR SO LIGHT?

THAT'S A DIFFERENT GIRL! LOOK, SHE DOESN'T HAVE BANGS! HOW CAN YOU NOT SEE THAT?

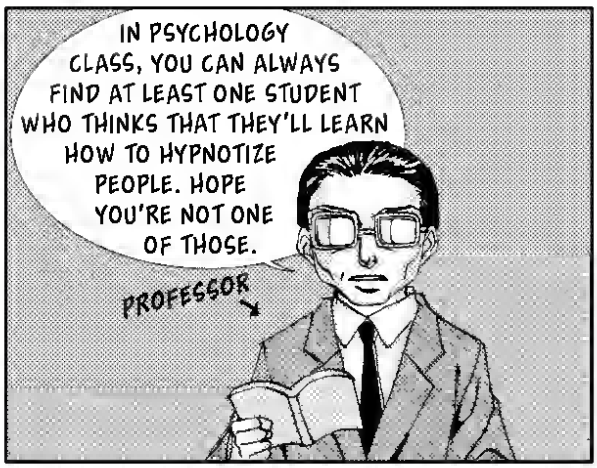
HUH? THEY LOOK EXACTLY THE SAME. OH, THIS IS SOAH, RIGHT?

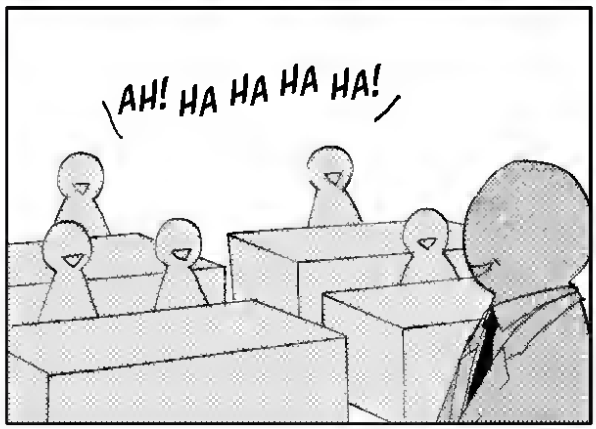
THAT'S GIL-SANG-CHEON-NYEO!

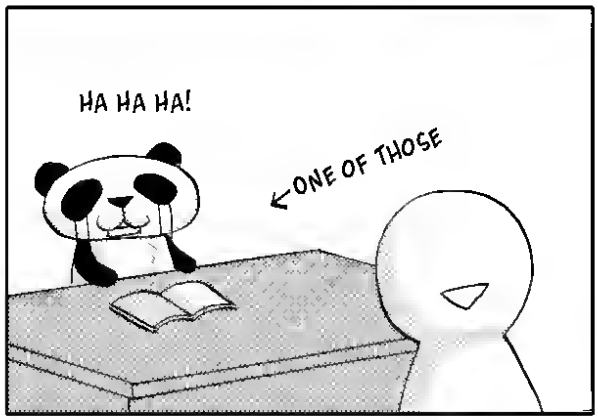
THIS IS WHY SOAH KEEPS THE SAME HAIRSTYLE. (TO MAKE HER RECOGNIZABLE!)

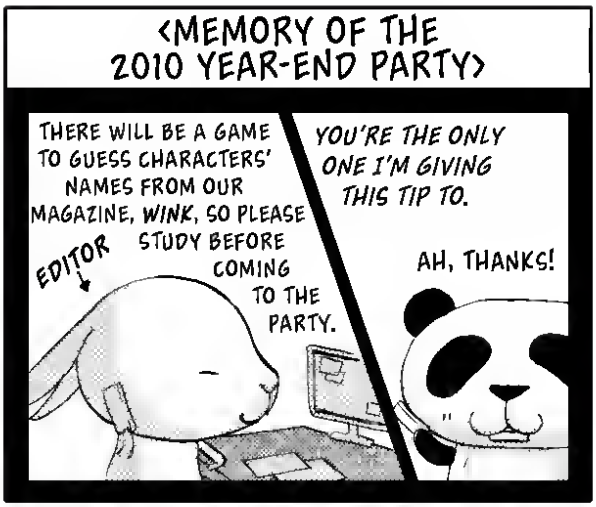
<PSYCHOLOGY CLASS>

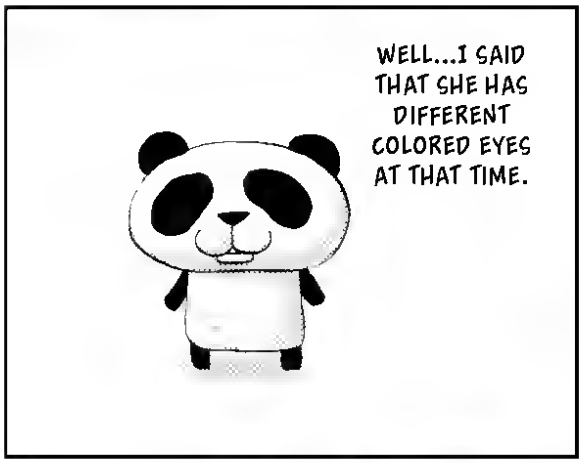
TOOK A PSYCHOLOGY CLASS IN COLLEGE, HOPING IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR MY CAREER AS A COMIC BOOK ARTIST.

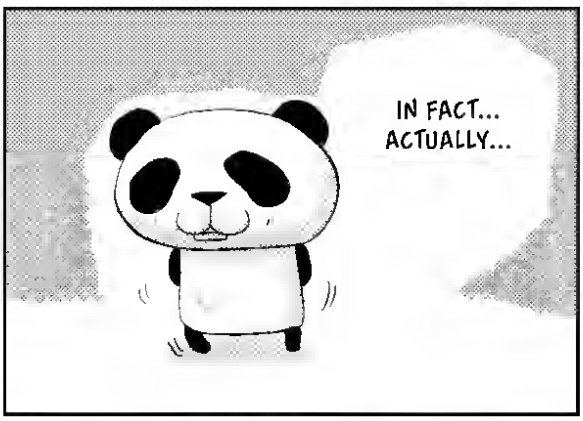

IN PSYCHOLOGY CLASS, YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND AT LEAST ONE STUDENT WHO THINKS THAT THEY'LL LEARN HOW TO HYPNOTIZE PEOPLE. HOPE YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THOSE.
PROFESSOR

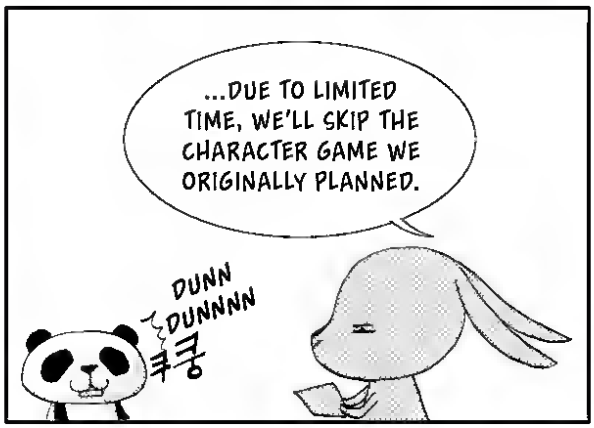


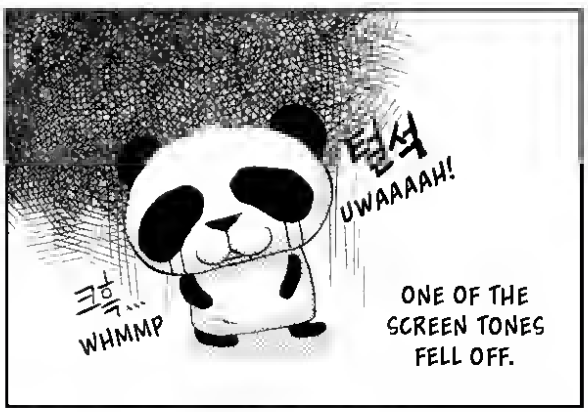


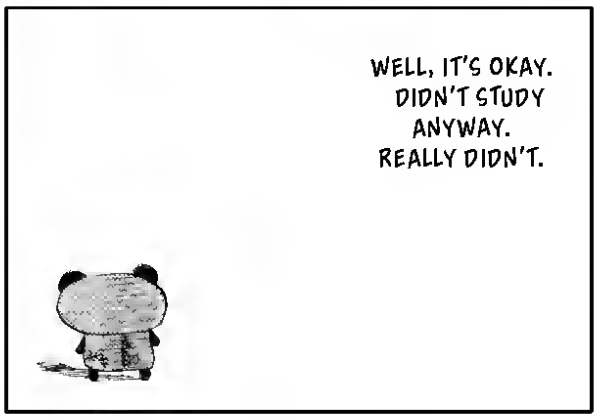












THAT'S HOW MURA'S ODD-EYE DESIGN WAS CREATED.

SORRY TO DRAW YOU LIKE THIS! :WEEPS!:

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR STRATEGY FOR MEETING DEADLINES? HOW CAN YOU FINISH A CHAPTER IN FIFTEEN DAYS? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE MADE IT FOR THE LAST SEVEN YEARS! :WEEPS!:

<SUSPECT>
I'M GLAD I MADE IT TO THE YEAR-END PARTY. I GOT LOTS OF AUTOGRAPHS FROM SOME COOL CREATORS. AH, THIS WINK MAGAZINE IS MY TREASURE.
WINK

HA HA! LET ME TELL YOU A FUNNY STORY. YOU KNOW, TODAY SOMEONE VERY SCATTER-BRAINED GOT TONS OF AUTOGRAPHS FROM WINK CREATORS ON A MAGAZINE AND THEN LEFT IT AT THE PARTY!
I WONDER WHO IT WAS.
WINK

WHO DO YOU THINK IT WAS?

END OF MI-GAENG'S BONUS STRIPS!

My favorite game during childhood was hopscotch. I wasn't very good at five stones or jumping rope, but I had so much fun with hopscotch. I used to play it with friends every day after school. Drawing was also one of my favorite fun things to do. Now it has become my job, so I get stressed out about it sometimes. I should remember to have fun when I'm drawing, because if I don't enjoy my work, others won't enjoy it either. As an adult, I don't play hopscotch anymore, but I'm happy because I still draw!

—Mi-Kyung Yun

CREATOR PROFILE

Born on October 14, 1980. Majored in Animation at Mokwon University.

Received the silver medal for Seoul Media Group's "Shin-in-gong-mo-jeon" ("New Artist Debut Competition") for *Na-eu Ji-gu Bang-moon-gi* (*The Journey of My Earth Visit*) in 2003.

Received a "Shin-in-sang" ("Best New Artist") award from the Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization for *Railroad* in 2004.

Won the Korean "Manhwa of Today" award for *Bride of the Water God* in 2007.

Currently publishing *Bride of the Water God* serially in the Korean comics magazine *Wink*.

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윤미경

Mi-Kyung Yun

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Bride of the Water God

As the mystical mountain of Cheong-Yo crumbles in the wake of Mura's death, another bitter goddess with a heartbreaking history of her own tempts Mui with a new possibility: abandon his position as the realm's water god to spend a short but happy life with Soah as a flesh-and-blood human! But the gifts from this new goddess are *never* without conditions, and Mui and Soah may face even more hardships in the human world than they suffered in the domain of the gods!

Mi-Kyung Yun delivers another sumptuous installment in her hit manhwa series, filled with romance and intrigue and steeped in Korean mythology.

DARK HORSE MANHWA